

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 04, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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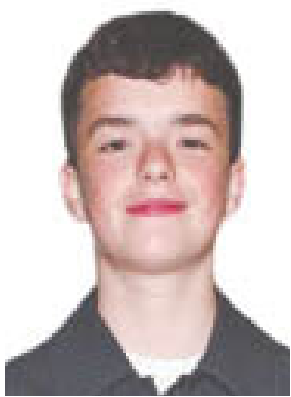
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**Owen Cooper wins Best Supporting Performance at Gotham TV Awards**

**Monsoon session of Parliament from July 21 to August 12: Kiren Rijiju**

**South Korea's President Lee takes power after sweeping election win**



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## BRIEFLY

### Gusty winds, hailstorm likely in Kashmir and Jammu regions, Says MET department

SRINAGAR, Jun 4 (Agencies): The Meteorological Department (MET) on Wednesday issued an update forecasting rain and thundershowers across multiple districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the next few hours.

According to the MET department, a spell of rain and thunderstorms is likely to affect several parts of Kashmir Division, Chenab Valley, as well as Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur, and Reasi within the next three to five hours.

The department has also warned of the possibility of intense showers, hailstorm, and gusty winds in isolated areas of Budgam, North and South Kashmir, Ganderbal, Ramban, and Doda.

Director MET, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said "Generally dry weather is expected from June 3 to 8, though brief rain or thundershowers in isolated places during late afternoon cannot be ruled out," he said. He added that the weather is expected to remain dry from June 9 to 10.

Authorities have advised the public and travellers to remain cautious, particularly in areas prone to waterlogging, slippery roads, or reduced visibility due to heavy rain and storms.

### Youth killed, 2 others injured in Qazigund road accident

QAZIGUND, Jun 3 (Agencies): A teenage boy was killed and two others were injured after a motorcycle they were riding collided with a bus on Tuesday evening, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer that the accident took place at Bonigam on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, involving a motorcycle and a school bus.

He said one boy died on the spot, while two others sustained injuries. The injured were shifted to a hospital for treatment, officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Sanif Salam Bhat, son of Abdul Salam Bhat, resident of Bonigam. They

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## Instances of corruption, Misconduct within judiciary impact public confidence: CJI Gavai

NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India B R Gavai has said instances of corruption and misconduct in the judiciary have a negative impact on public confidence, potentially eroding faith in the integrity of the system as a whole.

Speaking at a roundtable conference in the United Kingdom on "Maintaining Judicial Legitimacy and Public Confidence", he also spoke about post-retirement jobs taken by judges, and said if a judge takes up another appointment with the government immediately after retirement, or resigns from the bench to contest elections, it raises "significant ethical concerns and invites public scrutiny".

On the issue of corruption, the CJI said whenever these instances of corruption and misconduct have come to light, the Supreme Court has consistently taken immediate and appropriate measures to address the misconduct.

"Furthermore, every system, no matter how



robust, is susceptible to issues of professional misconduct. Sadly, there have been instances of corruption and misconduct that have surfaced even within the judiciary. Such occurrences inevitably have a negative impact on public confidence, potentially eroding faith in the integrity of the system as a whole.

"However, the path to rebuilding this trust lies in the swift, decisive, and transparent action taken to address and resolve these issues. In India, when such instances have come to light, the Supreme Court has consistently taken immediate and appropriate measures to address the misconduct," the CJI said.

The CJI's remarks

come in the backdrop of Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma facing allegations of corruption after the discovery of a large amount of cash from his official residence in Delhi.

CJI Gavai said in every democracy, the judiciary must not only dispense justice, but also be seen as an institution that deserves to hold truth to power and the terms "judicial legitimacy" and "public confidence" are interconnected.

"Legitimacy and public confidence are not secured through coercion of command but through the credibility earned by courts. Any erosion of this confidence risks weakening the judiciary's

constitutional role as the ultimate arbiter of rights. Transparency and accountability are democratic virtues," CJI Gavai said.

Dealing with the often debated issue of post-retirement jobs taken by judges, he said the timing and nature of such post-retirement engagements could undermine the public's trust in the judiciary's integrity, as it could create a perception that judicial decisions were influenced by the prospect of future government appointments or political involvement.

"Another point of discussion is post-retirement jobs taken by judges. In India, judges are subject to a fixed retirement age. If a judge takes up another appointment with the government immediately after retirement, or resigns from the bench to contest elections, it raises significant ethical concerns and invites public scrutiny," he said. The CJI pointed out that a judge contesting an election for a political office can lead to doubts

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## India's Covid tally rises to 4302; 2 More deaths in 24 hours

NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): India's Covid-19 situation continues to escalate, with active cases rising to 4,302 as of Wednesday morning at 8 am, an increase from 4,026 reported on Tuesday, as per data available from the Union Health Ministry.

Two additional fatalities have brought the year's death toll to seven.

Over the past 24 hours, nearly 300 new infections were reported, with Kerala registering the highest number. Notably, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, too, have experienced a marked rise in cases.

Meanwhile, 3,281



patients have recovered and have been discharged. The recent spike includes 60 new cases in West Bengal, 63 in Uttar Pradesh, and 64 in Delhi. Just a day earlier, Delhi recorded 47 new cases, and Kerala reported 35. Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation, although hospitalisation rates remain relatively low.

For the first time, Him-

achal Pradesh reported its first case of the latest surge in Nahan, Sirmour district, on Tuesday, indicating the virus's continued spread across regions.

The resurgence has been driven by four predominant variants—LF.7, XFG, JN.1, and NB.1.8.1. Notably, NB.1.8.1 is a newly identified sub-variant in India, classified by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution as a 'Variant Under Monitoring' due to its significant genetic changes, though its epidemiological impact remains uncertain.

While multiple nations

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## 11 injured after vehicle falls into gorge in Reasi

REASI, Jun 4 (Agencies): At least eleven persons were injured after a Tata Mobile load carrier rolled down into a deep gorge near the CISF checkpoint at Jyotipuram area of Reasi district on Wednesday.

Official sources said that the accident occurred when the vehicle skidded off the road and fell nearly 50 feet down, resulting in injuries to all occupants. The injured were shifted to District Hospital

Reasi for treatment. "All injured are under medical supervision and their condition is being monitored, they said.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation started.

## SPO arrested for drug peddling in Udhampur, Heroin recovered



UDHAMPUR, Jun 4 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested a Special Police Officer (SPO) posted at District Police Lines (DPL) Udhampur for drug peddling after

heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession during a police checking operation, said officials. Fine dining reservations Jammu and Kashmir tourism SPO was arrested

from the Phangyal area of Udhampur town on Wednesday.

According to an official release, a team from Police Station Udhampur led by the Station House Officer (SHO) was on patrolling and checking duty near Phangyal when they intercepted a suspicious person. On noticing the police party, the individual attempted to flee but was apprehended promptly.

Upon frisking, the person was identified as Vishal Singh, an SPO posted at DPL

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## Kashmir youth dies in Delhi, family alleges foul play

SRINAGAR, Jun 4 (Agencies): A 30-year-old youth from Srinagar's Sehgar Ali Kadal died in New Delhi under mysterious circumstances with family alleging he was attacked by unknown persons.

An official told news agency the youth's body was brought to Srinagar this morning after he allegedly died in Delhi under mysterious conditions.

"As per Delhi Police, the incident happened the day before when they received a call

from the general public regarding the boy in a public park hitting his head. They soon arrived and took him to the hospital, after which his family was informed," he said.

He added that inquest proceedings going on and postmortem has also been conducted.

The youth has been identified as Zubair Ahmed Bhat of Sehgar Ali Kadal, Srinagar.

"The family says the boy had migraine issue earlier, but was totally fine now. We are assist-

ing the family and asked them if they have any kind of doubt, they can call the police or visit the police station anytime," the official said.

The family members told KNO they lost contact with Zubair 4 pm onwards on Monday, and later, they were informed about his death. "He used to travel to Delhi for work-related matters regularly," they said.

They claimed that they have screenshots of chats, showing he was

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# GupShup

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**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief, we inform the untimely demise of Dear Julie Pandita (Dhar), W/o Sunil Dhar, R/o Jablipora, Bijbehara, district Anantnag at present H.No 55, Lane no 1 (Dr. Dhigra Gali) Amrit Vihar, Upper Barmal, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 27.05.2025.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be observed on 5th June 2025 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of school education Jammu. The **Assembly** will be held at 8:30 am, at Muthi Ghat.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Reeta Dhar- **Mother-in-Law**  
Mr. Sunil Dhar- **Husband** (9906215971)  
Smt & Dr. Makhan Lal Dhar (9816054048)  
Smt & Sh Pran Nath Dhar (9419797047)  
Naman Dhar- **Son**  
Smt & Sh Shadi Lal Dhar (9816086946)  
Mrs. Rozy Dhar- **Sister-in-Law** (9906611154)  
Smt & Sh Ashok. K. Pandita (7607835776)  
Mr. Pawan Koul- **Brother-in-Law**  
Smt & Sh Sanjay Sadhu (9419182594)  
Smt & Sh Pirey Lal Dhar Smt & Sh Rakesh Bhat (9419149858)



Julie Pandita (Dhar)

**10TH DAY/13TH DAY KRIYA**

With Profound Grief & Sorrow, We inform the sad Demise of our beloved mother **Smt Ameela Devi** W/o Late Sh Bhuri Singh (Retired Deputy Secretary J&K Board of School Education) R/o H.No. D/22 Lane No 2 Upper Shiv Nagar Jammu.

**10th Day** will be performed on 05.06.2025 (Thursday) at Shakti Nagar opposite A.G Office Jammu at 9 AM to 10 AM.  
**13th Kriya** will be performed on 06-06-2025 (Friday) at our residence H.No. D/22 Lane No 2 Upper Shiv Nagar Jammu at 12 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Daughter in laws and Sons**  
Sumitra Manhas W/O Late Sh. Swarn Singh  
Smt. Radha Manhas W/O Sh. Shiv Dev Singh  
Smt. Jyoti Pathania W/O Sh. Bhupinder Singh  
Smt. Arti Manhas W/O Sanjeev Singh  
**Daughters & Son in Laws**  
Smt. Beena Bhai W/O Ashok Singh Bhai  
Smt. Neelam Chib W/O Rajesh Singh Chib  
Smt. Jyoti Manhas W/O Sanjay Charak  
Smt. Anita Kohwal W/O Late Sh. Ranjit Kumar Kotwal  
Mobile No. 9419642673, 9419148408



Smt Ameela Devi

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Susheela Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Som Raj Sharma R/o H.No -719, Ward No-18, behind Hotel Chanakya, Udhampur.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 5th June 2025 (Thursday) at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony from 11:30 am -12:30 pm.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 6th June 2025 (Friday) at Devika Ghat from 9 am onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Daughter-in-Law and Son**  
Usha Kiran and Ashok Sharma (Chanakya Hotel Udhampur)  
Anu and Vijay Tashav Sharma.  
**Daughter and Son-in-Law**  
Smt. Shukla Sharma and Sh. Virender Sharma.  
Smt. Renu Sharma and Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma.  
**Contact details:-**  
94191-62714  
90181-79522



Smt. Susheela Sharma

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Gupta** W/o Sh. Kasturi Lal Reghra (Chenani Wale) R/o 63 Gali Devi Dwar below Punani Mandi, Jammu at present 149 A Rouli Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 24/05/2025.

**10th Day** will be performed on 02/06/2025 (Monday) at Samriti Bhawan Bakshi Nagar, Jammu at 11 AM.

**Kriya** on 5/6/25 (Thursday) at our residence 149 A, Rouli Bakshi Nagar.

**Uthala** on 6/6/2025 (Friday) at Central Mahajan Sabha Shalamar Road Jammu from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. K.L. Gupta - **Husband**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Mr. Raman & Mrs. Sapna Gupta  
Mr. Pawan & Mrs. Ritu Gupta  
Mrs. Anjali & Mr. Ramesh Gupta - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Parth, Vaibhav, Ananya, Abhey, Aryan, Namita, Satyam & Arya - **Grand Children**  
**All Reghra & Phagotra Family**  
M/s Chinar Advertising Agency, Exchange Road  
M/s Hotel Royal Inn, Moti Bazar Jammu  
M/s Shivam Provisional Store, Moti Bazar, Jammu  
M/s Shivam Advertising Agency, Moti Bazar, Jammu.  
Mobile : 9419187957, 9419197787, 9419162788



Smt. Shakuntla Gupta

**BARKHI**

One year has passed since you left us for the heavenly abode. But your memories and blessings are always with us.

The **Barkhi** of our beloved **Smt. Sudesh Khajuria** W/o Sh. D.P. Khajuria (Retd. Director Agriculture) R/o 22 B/B Extension Gandhi Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 16-06-2024 will be performed on 5th June 2025 (Thursday) at 12 Noon at our residence.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By :**  
**Husband**

Sh. D.P. Khajuria (Retd. Director Agriculture)

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Dr. Arvind Khajuria & Dr. Rashmi Sharma

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Anuradha & Dr. Vimal Sharma

Anuraag & Late Sh. Nippon Gupta

**Grand Children:-** Tanya, Aishwarya, Milli, Shyamal & Amartya

**Magotra Family & Khajuria Family**

**All Nears & Dears**

**JAMMU DIAGNOSTICS LAB**

9419143010, 9419152233



Smt. Sudesh Khajuria

**BARKHI****IN LOVING MEMORY**

It's been one year since you left us, but your love, values, and memories remain deeply etched in our hearts. Your absence is deeply felt each day, and your guiding presence is sorely missed in every moment. We are holding a **Barkhi and remembrance** ceremony for his eternal peace and to honor his memory on:

Date: 5th June, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m. (onwards)

Venue: At our residence

(H.No. 1, Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu)

We cordially invite all our family and friends to join us in remembering and praying for his soul.

Kindly join us for lunch after the pooja ceremony.

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**

**Lajya Sharma & Family**

+91 9419100127

SH. JAGDISH  
CHANDER SHARMA  
(April 6, 1943 - June 16, 2024 <)**OBITUARY**

With tears in our eyes & prayers on our lips, we inform that our Mother **Smt. Janak Rani Gagroo**, W/o Lt. Janki Nath Gagroo, Originally from Aga Hamam, Habbakadal, Srinagar, presently residing at Plot No 4, Block-F, Swarn Vihar, Jammu (Near Apollo Multispeciality Diagnostic Centre), attained Nirvana at Indirapuram, Ghaziabad on 31st May 2025 at 5:18 PM.

The **CREMATION** was done on 1st June 2025 at Antim Niwas, Sector-94, Noida.

**MOURNING** will be held at Flat No 509/3, Express Garden, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muradnagar Nagar Ghat Ghaziabad on 9th June 2025 at 8.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Rajaish Gagroo (Son) 9622220261

Nancy & TK Peer (Daughter & Son-in-law) 9899252675

Pinki & Rajesh Mujoo (Daughter & Son-in-law) 9810780499

SMT. JANAK RANI  
GAGROO**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt. Sh. Subash Chander Magotra** R/o 26, Gali Khilonia Pacca Danga Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 26th May 2025.

**10th Day** will be performed on Wednesday 04/06/2025 at Rani Taleb Jammu from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on Thursday, 5th of June 2025 at 12:00 noon. **Uthala** will be performed on Friday, 6th of June 2025 at Brahman Sabha, Parade Jammu from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Kanta Devi (Wife)

Rohan Magotra (Son)

**Daughters & Son-in-Law**

Mrs. Shalini & Mr. Rachit Sharma

Mrs. Tania & Mr. Nitesh Dubey

**Brother & Sister-in-law**

Smt. Leena Magotra W/o Lt. Sh. Ajay Magotra

Smt. Sonia Magotra & Sh. Rohit Magotra

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

Smt. Sonia Sharma & Sh. Sanjeev Sharma

Smt. Meenu & Sh. Sunil Sharma

Smt. Monika & Sh. Rohit Sharma

Akshay, Akash, Pratham, Vansh, Vinayak & Shreya (Nephews & Niece)

Mobile :- 7006860658, 6005685356, 7889379230

Lt. Sh. Subash Chander  
Magotra**OBITUARY / TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Makhan Lal Raina** S/o Late Shri. Dina Nath Raina resident of Zainapora, Shopian on 31th May, 2025 (Saturday) at his residence.

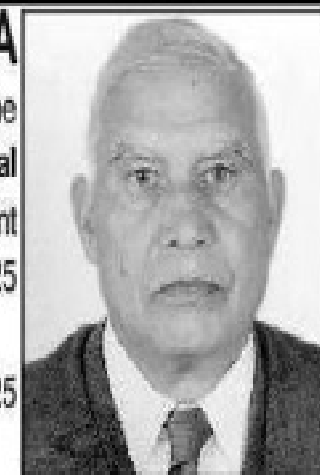
**Tenth Day** will be performed on 9th June, 2025 (Monday) At Zainapora, Shopian.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Samast Raina Pariwar Mob. No. 88250-95867

Samast Bhat Pariwar Mob. No. 60057-07938

Samast Koul Pariwar Mob. No. 70062-91189

Shri Makhan  
Lal Raina**CONDOLENCE**

We express our deepest & heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of **Sh. Bodh Raj Sharma** (Ex- Vice President of Shree Sanatan Dharam Sabha Jammu) R/o Kailash Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu. We pray Almighty to bestow peace to departed noble soul in heaven and courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

**From:- President & All Members of Shree Sanatan Dharam Sabha Jammu Kashmir Prant, Geeta Bhawan Prade Jammu**

Sh. Bodh Raj  
Sharma**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief we inform you the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Late Sh. Qasim Singh Bandal at Village Southal.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 08-06-2025 Sunday at 11am and 13th day will be performed on 11-06-2025 Wednesday.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Daughters-in-law & Sons**

Smt. Usha & Sh. Govind Singh (Ex. Asst. Comdt. BSF)

Smt. Reva & Sh. Chandan Singh (Retd. Master)

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Swarn Singh

Smt. Vaishni & Late Sh. Pritam Singh

Smt. Shoba & Sh. Parbad Singh

**Granddaughter-in-law & Grandsons**

Dr. Duya & Sh. Gulshan Singh (Senior Ex)

**Granddaughters & Grandsons-in-Law**

Smt. Poonam & Sh. Rajul Singh

Smt. Parul & Sh. Bhawan Singh

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh - **Grandson**

Yashvi Singh - **Great Grandchildren**



Smt. Krishna Devi

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With Profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Shri Girdhari Lal Raina** S/o Late Shri Shamboo Nath Raina Originally R/o Kanilbagh Baramulla on 28/05/2025 and presently residing at S 907, Eden, StoX, Godrej Garden City, Ahmedabad. The **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 06/06/2025 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

**Grief Stricken**

Sunita Raina (Wife)

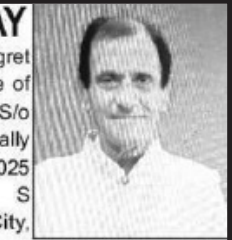
Pankaj Raina (Son)

Neeraj and Nisha Raina (Son and Daughter in law)

Yashu (Grand Daughter)

**And Samast Parivar**

Contact: 9879882575, 9560780364.

Shri Girdhari Lal  
Raina**10th DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of **Sh. Parshotam Kumar (Kaka)** S/o Gain Chand R/o H. No. 1062 Agnihotri Gali Panjthirti Jammu.

**10th Day** will be performed on 5th June 2025 Thursday at 11 am. at Billu Mandir Panjthirti near police Chowki Jammu.

**Kriya** will be performed in our residence on 6th June 2025 at 10 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Rita Devi- **Wife**

Sh. Suraj Kumar- **Brother**

Smt. Anu Devi - **Sister in law**

Smt. Sushma Devi- **Sister**

Sh. Ramesh Kumar- **Brother in law**

Raghav, Disha- **SON & DAUGHTER**

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Mangotra Family...** 8716082153, 8716966134

Sh. Parshotam  
Kumar (Kaka)**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved brother **Sh. Jawahar Lal Ganjoo**, S/o Late Damodhar Nath Ganjoo, originally from Hugam, Srigufwara, Anantnag, A/P Jago Colony Lane No. 18, Block 94 on 30.05.2025.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 8th June 2025 at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of Education at 9:00 AM.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN:**

Smt. Bita Ganjoo (Wife)

Smt. Sheetal Ganjoo & Sh. Achal Ji Bhutta (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Mr. Nalin Ganjoo (Son)

Sh. Mahan Lal Ganjoo (Brother)

Smt. Phoota Ganjoo & Sh. Moti Lal Ganjoo (Bhai & Brother)

Sh. Mohan Lal Ganjoo (Brother)

**Grandchildren:** Ashi Bhutta

**SAMAST GANJOO PARIVAR**

MOB: 8082358651, 8890945453, 8717001987

Sh. Jawahar Lal  
Ganjoo**MASVAR AND VAHERWAR**

The pain of loosing you is still a fresh and the silence you left behind echoes everyday in our home and in our hearts, you were the essence of love, kindness, patience and selfless sacrifice. Your presence was blessings and your absence an unfillable void. Missing you badly on your **Masvar and Vaherwar**.

Mo ki Dua Jannat Ka Sahara Hoti Hai

Maa Kay Bagair Zindagi Veeran Hoti Hai

Khwabun Main aati ho Dua bankay chalti ho

Maa tum mar kay bhi mar nahi Sakti ho

**MASVAR AND VAHERWAR** of our beloved **Smt. Pyari Raina** is being performed on 4th and 5th June 2025.

Respectively

**Samast Raina parivar of Khayal**

Kouls, Bhats and Ganjoos



SMT PYARI RAINA

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kewal Krishan Raina** S/o Late Sh. Bhagwan Das Raina resident of 581-A, Upper Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal on 31-05-2025

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

( **Daughters & Sons-in-law**)

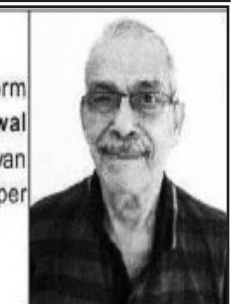
Ruby & Ponam Monga

Ruhi & Vinod Kaul

Neeru Raina ( **Daughter-in-law**)

Pyare Lal Raina ( **Brother**)

Asha Ji Raina ( **Sister-in-law**)

Sh. Kewal Krishan  
Raina**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Susheela Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Som Raj Sharma R/o H.No -719, Ward No-18, behind Hotel Chanakya, Udhampur.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 5th June 2025 (Thursday) at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony from 11:30 am -12:30 pm.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 6th June 2025 (Friday) at Devika Ghat from 9 am onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Daughter-in-Law and Son**

Usha Kiran and Ashok Sharma (Chanakya Hotel Udhampur)

Anu and Vijay Tashav Sharma.

**Daughter and Son-in-Law**

Smt. Shukla Sharma and Sh. Virender Sharma.

Smt. Renu Sharma and Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma



# Train to Kashmir: Maharaja Hari Singh's dream turns a reality



## Top News Report

REASI, Jun 4 (Agencies): A train to the Kashmir valley through the arduous Shivalik and Pir Panjal mountain ranges is more than a century-old ambitious plan that is set to turn into reality on Friday when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off a Vande Bharat train from Katra to Kashmir. Modi will also inaugurate the Chenab bridge, which will be the world's highest railway arch bridge.

"What was once a vision proposed in the 19th century by the Dogra maharajas is now transforming into one of the most significant infrastructure achievements in independent India's history," a senior railway official said.

Vikramaditya Singh, grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh and son of former Sadr-e-Riyasat Karan Singh, said he feels proud that the Dogra ruler's plan conceived over 130 years ago has finally materialised.

"The railway line project to the Kashmir Valley

was first envisaged and drawn up during Maharaja Pratap Singh's rule. It is a matter of great pride not only for the people of Jammu & Kashmir but for the entire nation that this dream will be realised by our prime minister," Singh, who has been a legislator in Jammu and Kashmir, said.

The Dogra ruler had commissioned British engineers to survey the rugged terrain for a railway route to Kashmir, an ambitious project that remained unrealised for over a century.

He appointed three British engineers to prepare and execute detailed reports. However, two of the three reports prepared in 11 years between 1898 and 1909 were rejected.

According to special documents from the Jammu and Kashmir archives department, the idea of a rail link to Kashmir was first proposed on March 1, 1892 by the Maharaja. Subsequently, in June 1898, British engineering firm S R Scott Stratten and Co was engaged to

conduct surveys and execute the project.

The first report, submitted by D A Adam, recommended an electric railway between Jammu and Kashmir regions, featuring steam locomotives on a narrow two-foot-six-inch gauge line. This proposal was rejected due to the challenging elevation levels.

Another proposal, submitted in 1902 by W J Weightman, suggested a railway line connecting Kashmir from Abbotabad (now in Pakistan) along the Jhelum river. This, too, was turned down.

The third proposal, by Wild Blood, recommended a railway alignment along the Chenab river through the Reasi area. This report was approved.

Later, plans for powering electric trains and establishing power stations near Udhampur, Ramsu, and Banihal were also examined but ultimately rejected.

Following this, British engineer Col D E Bourel was tasked with submitting a detailed report on local coal reserves. Additionally, a report was commissioned from T D La Touche, the then deputy superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, on the Sangarmarg and Mehowgala coal mines.

In December 1923, S R Scott Stratten and Co was re-engaged to implement the coal extraction project. However, the death of

Maharaja Pratap Singh in 1925 and the growing Indian independence movement led to the project being shelved permanently, the documents said.

The idea was revived nearly six decades later, when the then prime minister Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone for the Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar railway line in 1983. At the time, the project was estimated to cost Rs 50 crore and was expected to be completed in five years, officials said.

However, in 13 years, only 11 km of the line could be constructed, which comprised 19 tunnels and 11 bridges – at a cost of Rs 300 crore, they said.

It was followed by the broader Udhampur-Katra-Baramulla railway project, estimated at Rs 2,500 crore, which saw its foundation stones laid by prime ministers H D Deve Gowda and I K Gujral in 1996 and 1997 at Udhampur, Qazigund, and Baramulla.

Construction began in 1997 but faced repeated delays due to challenging geological, topographical, and weather conditions, significantly inflating the cost to over Rs 43,800 crore as of now.

Recognising the strategic importance of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL), it was declared a national project in 2002, the officials said. Out of the 272

km stretch, 209 km has already been commissioned in phases including Qazigund-Baramulla in 2009, Banihal-Qazigund in 2013, Udhampur-Katra in 2014, and Banihal-Sangaldan in 2023. The final stretch connecting Katra to Sangaldan has completed the link in February 2024, they said.

The engineering marvel includes 38 tunnels and 927 bridges along the Kashmir rail project. The highlight is the Chenab bridge, standing 359 metres above the riverbed which is 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower making it the world's highest railway arch bridge, they said.

"The Kashmir train project, once just a royal vision, now stands as a symbol of national integration and engineering excellence", an official said.

To support construction in the rugged, militancy-affected terrain, more than 215 km of approach roads were built, many in areas previously accessible only by foot or boat.

This improved infrastructure has transformed the lives of approximately 1.5 lakh people in 70 remote villages such as Dugga, Surukot, Sawalkot, Khari, and Hingni. These areas have seen the emergence of marketplaces, eateries, and repair shops, significantly boosting local livelihoods, the officials said.

# BJP conducts district-level workshops under 'Sankalp Se Sidhi Tak' campaign



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held District level workshops under "Sankalp Se Sidhi Tak" to commemorate the 11 years of decisive governance by the Modi government.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP addressed a workshop of district Jammu led by its President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, at party office, Kachi Chawni Jammu.

BJP Vice-President and MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Secretary and MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, Prabhari Rajiv Charak, and former Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma also addressed the workshop.

Arvind Gupta, Vikas Choudhary, Adv. Purnima Sharma, District Team, Mandal Presidents, former Councilors, and the Abhiyan convenors and team members participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma recounted the achievements of the Modi government during the last 11 years and termed it as the Amrit Kaal for development. He said that the Modi government acted decisively to develop the Indian society socio-

economically. India witnessed unprecedented infrastructure development in all essential fields, he added.

Sharma lauded the bravery of Indian Armed Forces in Operation Sindoor, and termed it as a historic moment. He asserted PM Modi as a hardcore patriot has strengthened Bharat, while working on the vision of 'Vishwa Guru Bharat'. Yudhvir Sethi enumerated various programmes to be conducted under "Sankalp Se Sidhi Tak" and asked for mass awareness programmes on issues concerning natural resources like rivers, ponds, plantations, water conservation, energy conservation and optimal utilization, saving other flora and fauna, disposal of garbage and other issues.

Arvind Gupta asked the party cadre to conduct different programmes on the environment day on June 5th. He compared the dismal performance of UPA government with the good governance of NDA and prompted the party activists to take this achievement-based performance to the masses.

Rajiv Charak asked the party activists to conduct public pro-

grammes on the Yoga Diwas on June 21st and the dark "Emergency" days imposed by the Congress government on June 25th 1975.

Adv. Rajesh Gupta shared the blueprint of the programmes to be conducted under "Sankalp Se Sidhi Tak", while insisting that the party cadre will conduct these programmes at the ground level. Ravikant Sharma, General Secretary, Jammu District conducted the workshop proceedings and Suneet Raina, General Secretary presented the vote of thanks. Similar workshops were also conducted in other districts as follows.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) addressed the workshop conducted in the organizational district Jammu North. Rekha Mahajan addressed the workshop conducted in the organizational district Jammu Border. Raghunandan Singh Bablu addressed the workshop conducted in the organizational district Basohli. Sanjay Kumar Baru addressed the workshop conducted in the organizational district Nowshera.

Jugal Dogra addressed the workshop conducted in the organizational district Rajouri.

# Modi Govt's 11 yrs mark New India of progress, equity & dignity: Kavinder

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta today highlighted the remarkable journey of the Narendra Modi-led Government as it completes 11 years at the Centre. He said this period marks a historic phase for India, characterized by transformational development, strong governance, and a relentless focus on the welfare of all citizens.

Speaking at the meeting held at Party headquarter, Kavinder Gupta pointed out that since taking office, the Modi Government has introduced and successfully implemented numerous initiatives aimed at uplifting every section of society. These policies have brought about significant improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and rural development. He noted flagship programs such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Make in India, Digital India, and the Ujjwala scheme, which have empowered millions and changed lives across the country.

The senior BJP leader specifically pointed out how the policies of the Modi government have positively impacted Jammu and Kashmir, accelerating growth and opening new avenues for investment and employment in the region. Kavinder also emphasized the Modi Government's commitment to national security and foreign policy, which have bolstered India's standing on the global



stage. The development of strategic infrastructure and enhanced support for farmers and small businesses have strengthened the nation's economy and resilience, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta said, "The 11-year journey of the Modi Government is a testimony to visionary leadership and effective execution. It has successfully created a new India that aspires for progress, equity, and dignity for all citizens."

He expressed hope that the Government's focus on inclusive growth and development would continue to accelerate in the coming years, bringing prosperity to every corner of the country.

Kavinder Gupta urged all party workers to intensify their efforts at the grassroots level. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the benefits of Modi government's policies reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "Our focus should be on strengthening the party base and making sure that the development

narrative reaches every household." Prominent among those who were present in the meeting included Naresh Singh

Jasrotia, District President Jammu South, Kulbir Chadak, General Secretary, and Prema Nanda/

# K C Law College organizes educational visit to Bakshi Nagar Police station

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: As a part of its Clinical Legal Education -II Curriculum under the B.A.,LL.B (5 - Year) Programme, K.C Law College, Jammu, organized an insightful educational visit to the Bakshi Nagar, Police Station. The visit aimed at providing students with a practical understanding of the functioning and structure of Police administration.

All the students of 6th Semester of B.A., LL.B 5-year Course participated in the visit, accompanied by faculty members, Dr. Shalini Sharma and Dr. Kirti Kour. The students were warmly welcomed by the station House officer (SHO.) Azad Manhas and Sub-Inspector (SI), Prince Jasrotia.

During the interaction, the officers provided a comprehensive overview of the police station day to day operations. They shared valuable insights into various aspects of law enforcement including case registration, investigation procedures, record maintenance and methods of handling Criminal and Civil matters.

The session was highly interactive, allowing students to engage directly with the officers and clarify their doubts.

The visit served as a meaningful exposure for aspiring legal professionals bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application. It motivated students for their future roles in the field of law and justice.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION CONST. DIVISION

KRISHNA NAGAR, JAMMU. Email: xcmicddmu@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT NO. MICD/J/12 of 2025-26 Dated: 03-06-2025 Due on: 16-06-2025

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Krishna Nagar, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms/ reputed workshop owners only doing similar nature of works having valid PAN No. and GST No. for below mentioned work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'A' – Tender fee and Bid Security Declaration Form, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover 'B' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S.no	Name of Work	EMD	Performance Security	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates
1.	Periodic maintenance and repair of 40KVA DG set installed at I&FC complex Jammu along with allied works.	Rs 700.00	5% of the contract value of L1	Rs. 100.00	07 Days	120 days

KEY POINTS OF TENDER

1. Bidding documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 03/06/2025 (05.00PM onwards).

2. The Bid shall be deposited on the web site <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 03/06/2025 (05.00PM onwards) to 16/06/2025 (Upto 12.00PM).

3. The cover "A" "containing Tender fee, Bid Security Declaration Form & prequalification/ technical bids shall be opened online on 16/06/2025 (02.00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu. In case of holiday or if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of Cover 'A' the same shall be opened on the next working day or any other convenient day.

4. Cover B containing the financial bids in the prescribed BOQ shall be opened after evaluation of the opened technical bids.

5. Bids must be accompanied with EMD that should be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Jammu in the form of CDR/FDR and shall have to be valid for 120 days along with scanned copy of the cost of tender document as mentioned in the e NIT (Notice Inviting Tender). The tender fee shall be in the form of treasury challan favouring Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu by crediting the requisite charge to MH: 0702 (Revenue). The firm claiming any discount/rebate shall attach the relevant supporting document/certificate to the effect. Moreover the original documents i.e. (EMD, tender fee and other documents) should be submitted by hand, post or courier to this office before the due date of opening of cover A i.e. 16/06/2025 (12.00PM). Failing which the tender of the firm will be Rejected.

6. The complete bidding process will be ONLINE.

7. Lowest bidder will submit the performance security in the shape of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank equal to 5% of the contract value in addition to the EMD amount along with Tender fee and other relevant documents after opening of financial bid online within 3 days. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office.

8. The original documents submitted by the bidders should be the same as uploaded online (scanned copies).

9. The bids shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period, makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid the earnest money shall stand forfeited.

10. All other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.

11. The bidder is advised to visit the site before quoting the rates. The bidder should be well versed with the site conditions, distance, head load and other related difficulties to be faced during execution of work.

12. Any disputed will be taken within the Jurisdiction of UT of J&K only.

No: MICD/J/467-69  
Dated: 03-06-2025

DIP/J-1765/25

-sd-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Irrigation Construction  
Division Jammu



EDITORIAL

Digital Subscription Economy

The digital subscription economy is reshaping how consumers access products and services in the modern world. Instead of purchasing items outright, users today prefer paying a recurring fee for ongoing access. From Netflix to Microsoft 365, and from Spotify to Amazon Prime, the model has changed everything from how we watch movies and listen to music to how we shop, learn, and work. This shift reflects not only technological progress but also evolving consumer behavior that values convenience, flexibility, and continuous engagement.

At its core, the digital subscription economy is built on a model where users pay weekly, monthly, or annually to use digital services or platforms. This method contrasts with the traditional one-time purchase system, emphasizing access over ownership. For businesses, this model provides a predictable and consistent revenue stream. For consumers, it offers the benefit of uninterrupted service, often across multiple devices and locations, and without large upfront costs.

Several key drivers have accelerated the rise of the subscription economy. Digital transformation is at the forefront—widespread internet access and mobile technology have made it easier than ever to deliver services digitally. Additionally, consumer preferences have shifted. People are increasingly choosing to pay for ongoing experiences and services rather than one-time acquisitions. The growing importance of personalized services has also fueled this change, as subscription-based platforms gather user data to tailor their offerings more precisely.

Entertainment and media were among the first sectors to adopt this model on a large scale. Streaming platforms such as Netflix, Disney+, and Spotify changed how we consume content by offering vast libraries for a single subscription fee. Similarly, software companies like Microsoft and Adobe transitioned from selling boxed software to cloud-based subscription models like Microsoft 365 and Adobe Creative Cloud. This shift allows users to access the latest versions and updates continuously without needing to repurchase new editions.

E-commerce has also embraced subscriptions. Amazon Prime, for instance, not only provides fast delivery but also bundles in streaming services, exclusive deals, and other benefits. Other companies, such as Dollar Shave Club and beauty box services, send curated products to subscribers’ doorsteps monthly. The model has also found success in education—platforms like Coursera and Skillshare offer unlimited access to online courses, empowering learners across the globe.

The benefits of this model are clear for both businesses and customers. For businesses, it means more reliable income, higher customer retention rates, and the ability to scale more efficiently. For consumers, it provides cost savings, access to premium content or tools, and the convenience of automatic service delivery. Customers no longer worry about buying updates or physical products—they get ongoing access as long as they maintain their subscription.

However, the digital subscription model is not without challenges. One major issue is subscription fatigue. As more services adopt recurring payments, users can feel overwhelmed by the number of subscriptions they must manage. This often leads to cancellations and churn. For businesses, this means they must continually prove value to retain customers. Another concern is data privacy—since many subscription services rely on personal data to customize experiences, they must ensure transparency and security in their data handling.

In response to these challenges, many businesses are exploring hybrid models that combine subscription with pay-per-use options. Others are offering micro-subscriptions for niche services or implementing regional pricing to attract users from emerging markets. Artificial intelligence is also playing a role in enhancing user experience by learning from user behavior and improving content recommendations or service delivery.

Looking ahead, the digital subscription economy is likely to continue expanding. As more industries discover its potential—from fitness and wellness apps to virtual therapy and even transportation—the range of services offered via subscription will broaden. Additionally, sustainability concerns and changing consumption habits may give rise to new forms of digital and physical subscriptions, such as fashion rentals or eco-friendly packaging solutions.

The digital subscription economy represents a significant shift in both commerce and culture. It reflects a move toward long-term value, convenience, and personalized experiences. Businesses that embrace this model must focus on continuously delivering quality and relevance, while consumers benefit from enhanced access, lower upfront costs, and greater flexibility. As technology continues to evolve, the subscription economy will remain at the heart of how we consume, connect, and create value in the digital age.

By: Omkar Dattatray

India has now the distinction of being and becoming the world’s fourth largest economy and it is the largest democracy of the world. We should take pride of becoming the fourth largest economy and then we should not be complacent and should not be fatalists but march on the path of becoming the third largest economy in near future. India’s robust economy and the resolve and determination of its political executive and the cooperation of its gigantic population of more than 140 crore have played their pivotal role in attaining the position of fourth world economy and this feat is a feather in the cap of PM Modi and his economic policies and politico-economic vision. It is no ordinary thing that India has achieved the status of fourth largest economy of the world thanks to the vision ,determination and leadership of PM Modi and he deserves all appreciation for his pains-taking job of ensuring that India became a fourth largest economy and it is no ordinary matter but is really breath-taking and epoch-making and this will lay the strong foundation for a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and Modi’s dream and vision of a developed India will be realised by 2047. NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subramaniam Stated the other day that India has become the world’s fourth largest economy surpassing Japan. He said overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India. India is A USD 4 trillion economy and we must maintain and strengthen our momentum of growth and

development so that the goal and vision of developed India becomes a reality by 2047 and for this noble goal,mission and vision our policy makers,planners,economists,trade, industry leaders and political executive all must work in tandem and unison for achieving the goal and vision of Viksit Bharat. Up to year 2024,India was the fifth largest economy in the globe, but now it has gained the status of being the fourth largest economy of the world and it is now ahead of Japan. The three other economies ahead of India are US,China and Germany and it everything goes well,India will be the third largest economy in 2.5 to 3 years. The IFM has said in its World Economic Outlook Report-WEO report released in April had said that India is expected to be the fourth largest economy in the world with a GDP of USD 4-19 trillion in 2025 ahead of Japan. As per IMF India’s per-capita income has doubled from USD 1,438 in 2013-14 to USD 2,880 2025. It also reported that India’s growth rate is projected at 6.2 per cent in 2025-26. Thus, India made headlines in 2025 by overtaking Japan to become the world’s fourth-largest economy. With GDP of dollar 4.187 trillion and a per-capita GDP of dollar 2,934, India combines rapid economic growth with a massive population. Its expanding service sector,tech industry, and domestic demand are major drivers of the economy. The global economy is totally dependent upon and driven by a handful of dominant players whose influence goes around the world. These top economies highly impact international trade, finance, and

policymaking,shaping the direction of development across the globe. Based on the latest World Economic Outlook report by the International Monetary Fund -IMF the ten largest economies in 2025 have shown evolution and growth. These large economies boast their GDP’s in the trillions and account for the majority of global economic output. The US remains firmly in the lead, followed by China, though the gap is gradually decreasing. Meanwhile, India has made headlines by surpassing Japan to become the world’s fourth-largest economy, showing exponential growth and expanding influence. These rankings are based on GDP measured in USD using market exchange rates and provide a realistic comparison of economic strength in global terms. The top ten economies of the world are –1-United States,2-China,3-Germany,4—India,5-Japan,6-UK,7-France ,8-Italy,9-Canada and 10-Brazil. A country’s economy depends on factors like natural resources,labour force,industrial and agricultural production,infrastructure,trade and government policies. Economic stability also relies on investment, innovation, and political stability. Together these elements influence growth, income levels, employment and overall standard of living for its population. It is only the United States, China and Germany’s economies which are larger than India. The IMF in its recent has said that India will remain the world’s fastest growing major economy. The IMF has stated earlier this month in the WEO report that India continues to remain the world’s fastest-growing major economy and the only coun-

try expected to clock over 6 per cent growth in the next two years. According to IMF, India’s GDP currently stands at 4.3 trillion dollars. India’s GDP was 2.1 trillion in 2015, since then, the country has more than doubled its economy. According to the report, the high rate of growth will see India ‘s GDP increasing to 5.5 trillion dollars in 2028 overtaking Germany to become the third -largest economy. The IMF has projected a zero growth rate for Germany in 2025 ,followed by 0.9 per cent in 2026 as it is expected to be hit the hardest among European countries due to the ongoing global trade war. In short India is projected to become the world’s fourth-largest economy in 2025, surpassing Japan, according to the IMF report. This marks milestone, as the country climbs from 10th place in 2014 to 4th in just 11 years—a 105 per cent nominal GDP growth during the period, with India becoming a dollar 4 trillion economy. Thus, India has overtaken Japan to become the world’s 4th largest economy, with a GDP of dollar 4 trillion. NITI Aayog projects India will become the 3rd largest economy in the next 2-3 years, surpassing Germany.

*(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist &Freelancer)*

The ‘Khela Hobe’ Rematch in Bengal: Modi vs Didi in 2026

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The warm up for the “Khela Hobe” rematch, that must be concluded by May 2026, has begun. His blood on the boil, with sindoor flowing in his veins, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a blistering assault to capture West Bengal by snatching it from the merciless/ruthless clutches of the embodiment of “Nirmamta”, Mamata Banerjee, in 2026, when the Assembly elections are due. Going by the opening salvo in what will be the second historic Battle for Bengal, the next election will be a personalised contest between two charismatic leaders, both endowed with the gift of delivering attention-grabbing one-liners. In 2021, Mr Modi and his BJP lost the fight, flattened by the “Khela Hone” (game is on) call that Ms Banerjee deployed with spectacular success to marshal 28.65 lakh voters, or 48 per cent of the electorate. By the time the Lok Sabha elections came around in 2024, the BJP continued to fail at defeating the Trinamul Congress; it won 12 parliamentary seats, down from 18 in 2019 and the TMC increased its tally to 29 Lok Sabha seats, up from 24 in 2019. The moral of the story, if there’s a moral in no-holds-barred political fights, is fairly straightforward: persistence doesn’t pay, because the BJP playbook hasn’t hit upon the best way of the many ways a cat can be skinned, with apologies to animal rights advocates. Mr Modi’s North Bengal speech after Operation Sindoor was an updated version of past harangues focusing on how corruption, exclusion from Centrally-funded schemes, intimidation by the TMC political mafia, wom-

en’s insecurity had obstructed West Bengal’s progress and its inclusion in his visionary Viksit Bharat mission. He talked of Muslim appeasement and its effects on the Hindu majority.

West Bengal is a political prize that the BJP has set its heart on winning. The party and its leadership has a fundamental flaw, stasis, in its tactics and its strategy to overthrow the TMC, unseat its leader Mamata Banerjee and pull off an electoral victory. From the outside, West Bengal is like a perennial river; it is there and it is always in flow. From the inside, the river is perennial, but it is constantly changing, much like the river analogy of Heraclitus: “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man

By the time the Assembly elections come around in 2026, much water will have flowed down the numerous rivers in West Bengal. Of the indisputable facts that confirm there has been a great deal of change since 2021, when in the first round of “Khela Hobe” was played, the first and foremost is the TMC is stronger today than it was in 2021. Instead of haemorrhaging, the party is picking up people from the BJP, which means that these leaders are bringing with them the crucial networks of influence and organisation that matter most in keenly contested elections

Since the 2021 Assembly elections, the BJP has lost eight MLAs and three MPs. Going into the 2026 election, the BJP is today weaker than it was in 2021. It is incidentally weaker than it was in 2024; once an iconic tribal face of the BJP, John Barla, from Alipurduar has recently transferred his allegiance to the TMC. His reason for changing sides

directly contradicts Mr Modi’s campaign speech in Alipurduar on May 22; the ex-MP said: “If development work is stopped by a party, how can you function? Why should I be part of a party that stops working for the people? Tea garden workers blessed the BJP, but what did they get in return?” Before launching Operation Bengal, the name adopted by Suwendu Adhikari, the BJP’s Leader of the Opposition, to capture the state, he and his party should have thought it over many times. The BJP in West Bengal is openly in an internal fight, in what seems, unto death. In contrast, the internal friction in the TMC between the old guard and the new guard has settled down to some extent; Mamata Banerjee is in control and assertive about her prerogatives, while Abhishek Banerjee is both her understudy and her deputy. There are voters in West Bengal who want a change, regardless of who comes after Didi is gone. And then there are voters in West Bengal who have an extraordinarily stubborn preference for maintaining the status quo, which is why the CPI(M)-led Left Front stayed in power for 34 years. The Bengali psyche is contradictory; it is timid and it is violent. It like the status quo and advocates revolution, including glorifying armed insurrection. It loves the tender-compassionate mother as it adores the vengeful-violent “nirmam” in her destructiveness goddess. The BJP’s playbook for the border states in the east, including the Northeast, has remained unchanged. In state politics, its focus has been on the inundation of illegal Muslim immigrants whose integration as citizens is a consequence of the Muslim votebank politics of

anti-Hindu parties, like the TMC, Congress, the CPI(M) and the Left Front. The tirade against illegal Muslims, Rohingya illegal settlements, Muslim men marrying tribal women and taking control of tribal lands played out in the Jharkhand election. In West Bengal, the BJP has consistently campaigned to tar Mamata Banerjee as anti-Durga Puja, anti-Hindu and pro-Muslim. The party dragged in the Durga Puja to illustrate its political point, only to backtrack after Unesco listed the Durga Puja an intangible global cultural heritage. The campaign to smear her as anti-Hindu is effectively dead after the consecration and opening of the Jagannath Dham replica in Digha. The BJP had hopes of gaining political advantage from the turmoil in Bangladesh and attacks on Hindu places of worship, but Operation Sindoor has shifted the focus from the east to the west and taking down terror networks in Pakistan is now the priority. In his Alipurduar speech, Mr Modi made it clear that his goal was to inflict unimaginable punishment on Pakistan. Transferring attention from the east to the west has complicated repercussions on a hypersensitive electorate. The sense of relative deprivation, of always being second, that has haunted Bengalis ever since Partition vis-à-vis the west and Pakistan’s priority has begun to resurface in Kolkata. Winning the rematch in West Bengal in the 2026 Assembly elections will hinge on how the BJP and Mr Modi deploy culturally sensitive signs, such as Sindoor-Sindoor Khela (game with sindoor played at the conclusion of the Durga Puja). The one size fits all playbook is not the best manual for round two of “Khela Hobe”.



## GDC R S Pura organizes Essay Writing Competition on World No Tobacco Day



### Top News Report

R S PURA, Jun 4: To mark World No Tobacco Day 2025, Government Degree College (GDC), R.S. Pura organized an Essay Writing Competition, under the guidance of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour.

The competition aimed to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle.

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day, "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," inspired many students

to reflect deeply and creatively on the subject. Near about 40 students from various streams participated enthusiastically, expressing their views on tobacco control, the health hazards of smoking, and the importance of youth engagement in anti-tobacco campaigns.

The entries were judged based on originality, relevance to the theme, clarity of thought, and language proficiency.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college emphasized the importance of awareness programs in curbing tobacco use, especially among youth. "It

is essential to educate young minds about the dangers of tobacco and empower them to make healthy choices," she said.

The whole event was coordinated by Prof Sanjeev Upadhyay, Convener, Tobacco Free/Control Committee and the faculty members presented during the event were Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Prof. Meeshu Pandita, Prof Neelam Kumari Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra.

The event concluded with a pledge by students and staff to lead a tobacco-free life and spread awareness in their communities.

## KVK Samba reaching every nook and corner under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan



### Top News Report

SAMBA, Jun 4: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba under the aegis of SKUAST Jammu, continued its impactful outreach under the ongoing Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan.

These programmes are being conducted under the stewardship of Prof. B.N Tripathi Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu and under the guidance of Dr. Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. The farmers/farm women as well as youth are actively participating in these programmes

On seventh day, Krishi Vikas Kendra Samba spearheaded a significant outreach initiative, and deployed three expert teams to nine different locations across district Samba per day under the flagship ongoing campaign Viksit

Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan. These programmes were attended by more than 1000 farmers/farm women over nine locations per day basis. The teams comprised scientists from KVK Samba, Department of Agriculture, along with officers from the allied departments of UT of J&K of Samba District.

This initiative is aimed at bridging the gap between scientific advancements and grassroots agricultural practices.

Dr. Sanjay Khajuria Nodal Officer, VKSA and Chief Scientist & Head KVK Samba, SKUAST-J who has been overseeing the program at the district level, reiterated the importance of this outreach effort.

Dr. Rakesh Khajuria, Joint Nodal Officer and CAO Samba has emphasised that the program is focused

on equipping farmers with modern agricultural knowledge and addressing region-specific challenges to improve productivity and sustainability.

During the visits, scientists and experts engaged directly with farmers, providing tailored guidance on innovative farming techniques, soil health management, and climate-resilient strategies. The initiative has been met with enthusiasm, with local farmers appreciating the hands-on support and expert recommendations.

The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan continues to empower the agricultural community in Samba district, advancing progressive farming practices and strengthening farmer-scientist collaborations for long-term agricultural growth in the district.

## NueGo Teams Up with Bollywood's Biggest Comedy Franchise Housefull 5 to drive eco-friendly travel

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: India's leading electric intercity bus brand NueGo by GreenCell Mobility, announces a blockbuster collaboration with the most awaited killer comedy of the year - Housefull 5! Starring an ensemble of Bollywood's finest - Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, and more - this fifth install-

ment of India's biggest comedy franchise promises chaos, comedy, and a whole lot of confusion. The film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, releases on 06th June 2025.

India's biggest Comedy Franchise is produced by Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment. NGE, under the strong leadership of Sajid Nadiadwala have successfully completed 75 Years in the Entertainment Business, highlighting the

industry impact & the legacy of the banner. This time, the madness unfolds as three young imposters pose as long-lost heirs to a billionaire's empire and they unwittingly tumble into a deadly game of cat and mouse as they become prime targets in a string of grisly murders. This collaboration aligns perfectly with NueGo's ethos of offering entertainment-filled and safe travel experiences, making every journey a memorable one. In true Housefull

## GDC Sunderbani organizes essay writing competition on "Say No to Drugs"



### Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Jun 4: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Sunderbani in collaboration with Nasha Mukat Committee of the college organized an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Say No to Drugs" to raise awareness among students about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of a healthy, drug-free life.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students who expressed their thoughts and concerns about the growing menace of drug addiction through impactful essays.

After thorough evaluation by the judging panel, the top three winners were announced

in which Karan Kumar got 1st, Shruti Devi and Kavita Sharma fetch 2nd and 3rd positions.

Principal of college Dr. Vandana Verma, Dr. Manjeet Singh NSS PO and Prof. Davinder Kumar Convener of the committee, Dr. Karan Dev Jamwal, Prof. Jyoti Sharma congratulated the winners and appreciated all participants for their meaningful contributions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal emphasized the need for continued awareness campaigns and active student involvement in promoting a drug-free environment. Such initiatives aim to instill a sense of responsibility and encourage students to become ambassadors of social change.

## Kuldeep Rao urges completion of Road Projects and development of scenic tourist spots in Bhadarwah

### Top News Report

DODA, Jun 4: Social and political activist Kuldeep Kumar Rao has expressed serious concern over the neglect of crucial road projects and underdeveloped tourist destinations in the Bhadarwah Constituency, particularly the Lambi-Jai area in the picturesque Jai Valley of District Doda.

In a press statement, Rao highlighted the untapped potential of Lambi-Jai, which he described as a "mesmerizing natural spot" capable of attracting large-scale tourism if properly developed. While limited infrastructure like huts has been built in parts of Jai Valley, Rao criticized the lack of basic amenities such as public washrooms and the failure to utilize the wider 2-km area of Lambi-Jai, which includes a scenic lake and surrounding landscapes ideal for tourism.

He appealed to Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Dr. Jitendra Singh (MP, Kathua-Udhampur-Doda), MLA Daleep

Singh Parihar, and the Bhadarwah Development Authority to personally intervene and ensure that a detailed project report (DPR) is prepared for the development of Lambi-Jai. He also stressed the need for proper maintenance of Khellani Top and Gatha Park, both key tourist locations in the constituency.

Further, Rao urged immediate action on the long-pending road projects, particularly those affecting five Tehsils: Kahara, Thathri, Phaqsoo, Bhella, and Chirrala. He emphasized the importance of completing Kahara-Jai Road (Joura to Jai, 10 km pending), Thathri-Chirra Road (5 km pending from Chirra to Gallu Top), A 2 km link from Gallu Top to Joura, and a 5 km link from Joura Khurd to Chirrala-Panshaee Road.

He stated that completing these small stretches would create a complete road circuit, significantly boosting tourism and providing employment to thousands in the region.

## Day 3 Internship Program: Students Imparted Experiential Learning

## These interactions with industry experts provide students with a unique opportunity to learn from professionals: Head

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: The Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu on Day 3 of its ongoing internship program, Wednesday, organised multiple sessions for the students of Government College for Women (GCW) Gandhi Nagar.

Yogesh Manshas, editor-in-chief, We the Indian TV and senior photojournalism educator, shared his expertise in visual storytelling, emphasizing the importance of capturing compelling images that complement journalistic narratives. He discussed techniques for effective photography, the role of visuals in media, and the evolving trends in photojournalism, inspiring students to hone their skills in this dynamic field.

Sumit Sharma, a celebrated theatre expert, introduced students to the intersection of theatre, media and mass communication highlighting how performance arts can enhance communication and storytelling. His interactive session focused on the importance of creativity, expression, and audience engagement, offering students a unique perspective on media production and presentation.

The internship pro-



gram, aligned with the University of Jammu's implementation of National Education Policy and its emphasis on experiential learning, is designed to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry demands, following the farsightedness of Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai. Prof. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, expressed her enthusiasm for the program, stating, "These interactions with industry experts like Yogesh

Manshas and Sumit Sharma provide our students with a unique opportunity to learn from professionals who bring real-world expertise to the classroom. Our goal is to prepare students for the challenges of the modern media landscape."

Other faculty members, including Prof Dushyant Kumar Rai, Dr Pardeep Singh Bali, Dr Ramiyan Bharadwaj and Kumerjit Chajgotra also engaged the students throughout the day.

## Vande Bharat Trains-PM Modi's gift to J&K, connecting Srinagar-Katra: Rohiin Chandan

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohiin Chandan stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to flag off two state-of-the-art Vande Bharat trains and also inaugurates the Chenab Bridge in the Reasi district of J&K. The highest railway arch bridge in the world is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) stretch. The engineering marvel, standing at 359 meters above the Chenab River, on Friday, June 6, 2025, connected Srinagar with Katra in Jammu. This landmark event marks the culmination of a 42-year-long vision to integrate Kashmir with the rest of India through a robust

rail network, a project that promises to redefine connectivity, boost tourism, and foster economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

He highlights the introduction of the Vande Bharat trains on the Srinagar-Katra route as a historic milestone in India's infrastructure development. These ingeniously designed, semi-high-speed trains symbolize the nation's commitment to modernizing its railway network while ensuring seamless connectivity to one of its most picturesque and strategically significant regions. The rail link, which has been in the works for over four decades, represents a triumph of perseverance, engineering excellence, and the government's vision under Prime Minister Modi to strengthen national integration. "This is a historic moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire nation," said Rohiin Chandan. "The Vande Bharat trains will not only reduce travel time but also provide a safe, comfortable, and world-class travel experience.



This initiative will significantly boost the tourism sector in J&K, making it easier for pilgrims and tourists to visit iconic destinations like the Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra and the scenic valleys of Kashmir."

Chandan emphasized that Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat trains are expected to enhance accessibility for millions of devotees visiting the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, one of India's most revered pilgrimage sites. Additionally, the rail link will open up new avenues for tourism in Kashmir, showcasing its unparalleled natural beauty, cultural heritage, and hospitality to a broader audience. He expresses the trains, equipped with modern amenities such as ergonomic seating, onboard Wi-Fi, and advanced safety features, will offer passengers an unparalleled travel experience while ensuring environmental sustainability.

Rohiin Chandan underlines this project aligns with the Government of India's broader mission to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a hub of economic and cultural activity.



## Worth the wait: Allu Arjun, Ranveer Singh, others celebrate RCB's maiden IPL win

18 years of wait, heart-breaks and near-misses finally came to an end after Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally won its first IPL title. Allu Arjun, Ranveer Singh, Vicky Kaushal, Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna and several others celebrated RCB's win and congratulated them on their maiden title.

Allu Arjun shared a screengrab of the IPL final 2025 and wrote, "THE WAIT IS OVER. 'Ee sala cup named!' At last! We've been waiting for this day for 18 years. A big, big congratulations to RCB! (sic)," with red heart emojis.

Ranveer Singh shared a video of Virat Kohli



getting emotional and wrote, "One club player @virat.kohli (sic)," with a crown emoji.

He shared another photo of Virat and AB De Villiers celebrating on the field and wrote, "This is everything."



Vicky Kaushal shared emotional moments of Virat Kohli and mentioned why Virat deserves this win. "To the man who's given everything to the sport... this was long due! @virat.kohli #18 (sic)," he



posted on his Instagram Stories.

Vijay Deverakonda was one of the first celebrities to celebrate the win. "Congratulations to @RCBTweets, all RCB fans. you have waited with so much

energy and passion and love. It's a happy happy moment to see (sic)," his post read.

Rashmika Mandanna congratulated the team and shared, "It smells like victory in here."

Sonu Sood shared some incredible moments from RCB's match against Punjab Kings and wrote, "RCB!!! Mehnat ka phal meetha hota hai – finally! Virat bhai & team, heartily congratulations (sic)."

Royal Challengers Bengaluru registered its first IPL title win, ending the 18-year-long drought. They played against Punjab Kings, led by Shreyas Iyer, and won by 6 runs.

## Owen Cooper wins Best Supporting Performance at Gotham TV Awards



The second annual Gotham Television Awards concluded in New York City, where this year's TV shows

were revealed as the small-screen awards season hits high gear. Netflix's Adolescence swept the floor with

all the nominations it was a part of, it tied in the supporting performance category with Owen Cooper's win and Jenny Slate's accolade for Dying for Sex.

Meanwhile, Max's The Pitt, CBS' Matlock and FX/Hulu's Dying for Sex, which had three nominations apiece, took home a Gotham each. The former clinched the Breakout Drama category, while Kathy Bates won for lead performance in a drama. Apple TV+'s The Studio won the Breakthrough Comedy Series award. In this year's Gotham, the newly created category of Outstanding Original Film, Broadcast or Streaming went to documentary Pee-wee as Himself.

## Thug Life advance booking: Kamal Haasan's film gears up for solid opening

Kamal Haasan's 'Thug Life' is looking at generating a significant collection on Thursday. The film's advance booking has already neared Rs 10 crore (with block seats), and with one day to go, the buzz is going to pick up in the evening.

Directed by Mani Ratnam, the film has sold around 2 lakh tickets in all languages (barring Kannada), taking the Indian gross in pre-sales to around Rs 3.4 crore. The film will be running at around 8432 shows all across the country, reported the trade website Sacnilk.

Even though the numbers look good, the advance sales business is lower than Haasan's previous two films. The actor's 'Indian 2', which bombed at the box office, grossed around Rs 17.9 crore in pre-sales, while 'Vikram', directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, recorded advance sales of Rs 15.3 crore gross.



'Thug Life' is also experiencing a slower buzz than the 'Ponniyin Selvan' film series by Ratnam. While 'PS 1' had advance sales of Rs 18.95 crore gross, the second part in the series wrapped up its pre-sales booking at around Rs 11 crore gross.

With one more day to go before the film hits the screens, 'Thug Life' is expected to wrap up its advance booking between Rs 15-17 crore gross. This will offer a fair chance for the film to collect in the range of Rs 15-20 crore nett at the box office. However, it is still too soon to say anything, given that the film is releasing amid a

big controversy involving Haasan's "Kannada is born out of Tamil" remark. Karantaka has banned the release of 'Thug Life', demanding Haasan to apologise for his contentious statement. However, even as the high court blasted the actor and said, "No citizen has the right to hurt sentiments," Haasan refused to change his stance. He maintained that what he said was 'out of love', and he would 'not apologise'.

The film also features Trisha Krishnan, Silambarasan TR, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Ravi Mohan and Sanya Malhotra, among others.

## Actor Nimrit Ahluwalia skipped Diljit Dosanjh's film due to Choti Sarrdaarni shoot

Actor Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia, known for her role in the hit television series 'Choti Sarrdaarni', has recently made her Punjabi cinema debut with 'Shaunki Sardar'. She will be seen starring alongside Guru Randhawa and Babbu Maan. In a recent interview, the actor recalled that she was once offered a role in Diljit Dosanjh's film, however, she had to decline the opportunity because of 'Choti Sardarni' shoot.

Nimrit, who had scheduling conflicts then, is thankful for all the opportunities that have come to her. In an interview with agency, the actor said, "I was getting a lot of Punjabi film offers right after Miss India and even when I was doing 'Choti Sarrdaarni' and post my reality shows. But I missed out on some projects because of date issues. I remember I was supposed to be a part of a Diljit Dosanjh film, and the producer at that time was very inclined to take me. The shoot was happening during Covid, and I remember I had to be in Canada, and they wanted 40 days for the shoot. I could only give 15 days because I was shooting for 'Choti Sarrdaarni'



and you know how in television you cannot pull out too many projects."

Despite the missed opportunity, the connection turned out to be a stepping stone for her film career. The producer of that Diljit Dosanjh film, Pawan Gill, later recommended Nimrit to the makers of 'Shaunki Sardar'.

"So the producer of that film, Pawan Gill, happened to recommend me to the director of 'Shaunki Sardar', and that is when he got in touch with me, narrated the film to me and asked if I was interested. I was like, I would love to take the test. I then auditioned for it and luck-

ily, he liked my audition," she said.

Nimrit also spoke about the appreciation she is receiving for her performance and how she is trying to process the moment.

"Somewhere, my nature is such that I am always thinking of the next goal. Even my mom told me you should pause and relish these moments. I don't think I have had the time to do that. But definitely, it is very motivating when people appreciate your work. For an actor, it's very important to be appreciated for your craft. It feels surreal," she said.

The 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14'

actor also reflected on the challenges of transitioning from television to films, especially when facing preconceived notions from the industry.

"Challenges are there, and that often comes from a preconceived notion that, Oh my god, you are a television actor, but I feel like when you crack a project, then you don't feel that, but before you crack the project, there are those hiccups that you face while auditioning. But you know, some people have a preconceived notion about you, and some see your talent. I think I was fortunate that this project also panned out because they saw merit in me and didn't have a stereotypical viewpoint. But I am sure any actor transitioning from television to films will tell the same thing."

Nimrit also mentioned how thrilled her family was about her working with Babbu Maan and how the legendary singer-actor appreciated her work in the film. 'Shaunki Sardar' released in theatres on May 16. The film also stars Guru Randhawa, Babbu Maan, and Gugu Gill in key roles.

## 15 years on, Vedam remains Telugu cinema's unmatched masterpiece

When Telugu film 'Vedam' released in 2010, Allu Arjun said something that stayed with many. Speaking at the film's audio launch, he said, "People from neighbouring industries always say Telugu movies are always commercial films, but there is no value in those films. This line used to prick me. 'Vedam' is a reply to all of them." And it truly was. It truly is. Even 15 years later.

At a time when Telugu cinema was comfortably riding on formulaic commercial entertainers, 'Vedam' was a sharp detour, an experiment that did not just work, but moved. Fifteen years later, the film remains a hauntingly powerful reminder of the kind of stories we once dared to tell. Stories grounded in pain, dreams, contradictions, and, most importantly, humanity.

When the film was released, I went to the auditorium to watch Allu Arjun but came out with a proud feeling that 'Vedam' is a Telugu film. In 2025, as the film completes 15 years, it remains fresh, unique, and most importantly, remarkably difficult to attempt today. What makes this film so special?

### FIVE STORIES, ONE SOUL

The brilliance of 'Vedam' lies not in one story, but in five. Five lives, each vastly different in class, faith, morality, and ambition, bound together by fate in a single location on New Year's Eve. The hospital becomes both a battleground and a womb where some lives end, and others are reborn.

Cable Raju (Allu Arjun) is a lower-middle-class cable operator from Jubilee Hills slum with big dreams. To impress his rich girlfriend, despite being educated, he resorts to illegal activities such as chain-snatching, cheating and deception. While his acts are morally wrong, the writing treats him with empathy, revealing layers of desperation and identity crisis.

Vivek Chakravarthy (Manchu Manoj), born into a disciplined military family, defies his mother's hopes of him joining the army

to pursue his passion for music. Yet, in a twist of fate, his true heroism emerges not on the stage, but through his act of sacrifice in the end.

Saroja (Anushka Shetty), a prostitute, seeks freedom, not from the profession, but from the oppressive control of her madam, Rathamma. Her journey challenges what true agency, freedom and dignity mean.

Rahimuddin Qureshi (Manoj Bajpayee), a Muslim man from the Old City, is shaped by the trauma of communal violence. To him, India sees every Muslim as a terrorist, a perception that the film deconstructs with grace and power.

Ramulu (Late Nagayya), a debt-ridden weaver, and his daughter-in-law Padma (Saranya Ponvannan) are willing to sell kidneys to free their child Seenu from bonded labour. Their story lays bare the cost of poverty and the value of education.

Despite vastly different lives, each character seeks one thing: freedom. Freedom from poverty, prejudice, fear, past, or control. And this longing makes 'Vedam' more than a film; it becomes a human cry.

THE FIFTH VEDAM AND OTHER THEMES  
The film's title, 'Vedam' (Fifth Vedam), alludes to knowledge not from scriptures, but from lived experience. Krish uses the metaphor of time, particularly December 31 in the story, to mark transitions. For each character, this night is supposed to be a turning point:

Raju thinks impressing a girl at a party will elevate his life. Vivek sees the concert as a career-defining break. Saroja plans her escape to start her own business. Ramulu believes their sacrifice will finally give Seenu an education. Rahim wants to leave India for peace, tired of being profiled. But life has different plans. These hopes collide with chaos in the film's climax, a terrorist attack at the hospital, turning the New Year into a reckoning rather than a new beginning.



'Vedam' doesn't just interlink five stories. It interweaves philosophy and society. It takes on communal prejudice through Rahim's arc; commercial sex work and dignity through Saroja; poverty and education through Ramulu's desperation; youth, rebellion, and responsibility through Vivek; and aspiration versus integrity through Cable Raju.

What's brilliant is how realisations come not just through internal introspection, but via key secondary characters: Vivek's mother, Dappu Subani (Raju's friend), the police officer in Rahim's arc. These are not just side roles; they are moral mirrors.

In fact, the film's final setting, a hospital - a place where life begins and ends, a place same for everyone, is another elegant metaphor tying all threads.

### THE ELEMENTAL STORYTELLING

Each character in 'Vedam' symbolically aligns with one of the five elements, enrich-

ing the film's layered storytelling. Vivek, with music as his medium, represents air, unpredictable and free-spirited. Raju, a cable operator with lofty ambitions, is associated with the sky. Many of his scenes frame the open sky, mirroring his dreams. Rahim's anger and the communal prejudice he faces embody fire, symbolising volatility. Saroja, caught between fluidity and entrapment, reflects water, seeking her flow and freedom. Ramulu, grounded in suffering and bound to the harsh realities of poverty, represents the earth.

The director further weaves these elemental themes metaphorically through their interactions: when Raju and Vivek leap from a building to confront terrorists, it symbolises the merging of air and sky, while Raju's attempt to steal Ramulu's money reflects the union of sky and earth. These subtle yet powerful undertones add depth and complexity to the film's narrative fabric.

### STARS IN SERVICE OF STORY

It is not often that stars surrender their image for the story. Allu Arjun, at the height of his stardom post-'Arya 2', took no remuneration. Anushka, after Arundhati, chose the bold and vulnerable Saroja. Manchu Manoj delivered one of his best performances. The screen time and emotional weight are dictated not by star hierarchy but by narrative necessity, a rarity in Telugu cinema.

As Allu Arjun said at the film's audio launch: "People asked me why I did 'Vedam' after big films like 'Arya 2', 'Varudu', 'Badrinath'. They said it is stepping down as a star. But as an actor, I believe 'Vedam' is a film that lifts Telugu cinema a step higher."

### MUSIC AND DIALOGUE: SOUL OF THE FILM

MM Keeravani's music is not merely inserted; it is seamlessly integrated. Songs like 'Rupai', 'Ye Chikati', and the 'Vedam' title track reinforce the film's themes. The line from the song 'Rupai', "Poyi oopiri nila-

valanna, poratam lo gelavalanna, jeevana chakram thiragalanna, Jannam Nunchi Maranam Daaka Rupai" (Even if the breath that is leaving must be stopped, battles must be won, and the cycle of life must keep turning, from birth to death, it's all about money) showcases the deep philosophical storytelling through its lyrics.

The dialogues in the film are equally searing. Cable Raju's line, "prapancham lo rende castalu ra unnullu, lenollu" (In this world, there are two castes, those who are rich and those who are not) or Saroja telling the police, "Memu guddalu ippi ammudu potham. Meeru guddalu eskoni ammudu potharu" (We strip ourselves to get sold, but you wear uniforms and get sold) or Ramulu's words, "Cheppulu kutte todiki cheppulu untaya maa bathukulu kuda ganthe saar" (Will a cobbler have his own slippers? Will a labourer who builds houses have a home of his own? Our lives are no different). These dialogues linger long after the film is over because of their impact.

### LEGACY: A BENCHMARK YET TO BE REACHED

'Vedam' was not a blockbuster, but it became a benchmark. Director SS Rajamouli said during its release, "Vedam" is a pride of Telugu cinema. When people ask me what's a Telugu film I'm proud of, I say - watch 'Vedam'."

The final scene, when Patel, the money-lender, realises Seenu's love for education says, "Em pattindu ra lekkalu idichey ra badiki pothadu" (What a grasp on numbers, let us leave him, he will go to school). That is cinema at its poetic best.

'Vedam' was more than just a film; it was a cinematic experiment, an emotional revelation, and a storytelling milestone. It showcased the true potential of Telugu cinema: layered, deeply rooted, philosophical, and universally resonant. Years on, it still leaves us wondering why more films are not made like 'Vedam'.



# SC agrees to hear plea by two journalists alleging assault by MP police

NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the Madhya Pradesh government on a plea filed by two journalists, who have alleged that they were beaten up in a police station in the state for reporting on sand mafia.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Satish Chandra Sharma agreed to hear the plea filed by journalists Shashikant Goyal and Amarkant Singh Chouhan, and issued notice to Madhya Pradesh seeking its response.

The counsel appearing for the petitioners urged the bench that interim protection from arrest be granted to the petitioners.

"Let the other side respond. Let the facts be brought by the state also," the bench said.

It issued notice on the plea and posted it for hearing on June 9.

On May 28, the Delhi High Court granted protection to Chouhan, who claimed there was threat to his life by the Bhind superintendent of police after he was allegedly beaten in his office.

The high court had directed Delhi Police to give protection to Chouhan, a resident of Madhya Pradesh and Bhind Bureau Chief of Swaraj Express news channel, for two months.

Last month, three journalists from Bhind district had alleged they were beaten or manhandled inside the office of superintendent of police, an allegation denied by the officer.

Pritam Singh Rajawat, who runs a YouTube channel, Goyal who runs a news portal, and Chouhan, who also works for a news channel, alleged in a complaint submitted to the district collector that they were assaulted on May 1.



# Monsoon session of Parliament from July 21 to August 12: Kiren Rijiju

PUNE, Jun 4 (Agencies): The Monsoon session of Parliament will be held from July 21 to August 12, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Wednesday.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has recommended the dates, he told reporters here.

The recommendation will be sent to the president for convening the session, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said.

The announcement by Rijiju comes against the backdrop of a demand for special session by opposition leaders to discuss Operation Sindoor.



"Every session is a special session for us," he said, adding that under the rules, "all important matters" can be discussed during the Monsoon session.

He underlined that the business advisory committee of both the Houses will take a call on the issues to be discussed.

# BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over 'surrender' remark, says he insulted armed forces

NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): The BJP on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remark that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "surrendered" before the US, accusing him of insulting the armed forces.

"The way he (Rahul Gandhi) has equated our military's success in Operation Sindoor with surrender reflects a deeply sick and dangerous mindset," said BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi at a press conference in the national capital.

Gandhi, at a Congress event in



Responding strongly, Trivedi said the announcement of Operation Sindoor's success came from the armed forces, not the BJP or any of its leaders.

"By calling it a surrender, have you not insulted the armed forces?" he asked.

Trivedi further claimed that not even Pakistan's military nor US-designated terrorists like Masood Azhar had used such language about India. "But Rahul Gandhi has."

Calling the Congress MP a "self-proclaimed, self-styled, supreme leader," Trivedi said Gandhi and his party had a his-

tory of capitulation.

"The incidents of surrender by your family and your party are well-recorded in the annals of independent India's history," he said.

Trivedi added that while the BJP welcomed political criticism, it would not tolerate any disrespect towards the armed forces. He also addressed the US President's past claim of mediating to prevent a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan, saying, "The Indian government and Ministry of External Affairs categorically denied any such mediation claim."

# Wrong to think 'Modi is India and India is Modi': Cong slams BJP's criticism of Rahul

NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): The Congress on Wednesday said it is wrong to think that "Narendra Modi is India and India is Narendra Modi", as it slammed the BJP for its criticism of Rahul Gandhi over his dig at the prime minister and doubled down on the 'Narendra-surrender' jibe.

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera claimed that Gandhi's "Narender...surrender" remarks encapsulated how the prime minister has time and again "surrendered India's national interests, in situations, where it was required to show the requisite deft and 'vishwaguru' status."

"The BJP people were making a film for their hero for the last 11 years — 'Muqaddar Ka Sikan-dar'. But when the film was ready, it turned out to be 'Narender Ka Surrender'. Actually, there is no injection of bravery, but it is in-built in the character of a person. The history of BJP-RSS people has been of cowardice," he alleged while addressing a press conference at the Congress' Indira Gandhi Bhawan headquarters here.

When such a person takes over the reins of the country, the future of the country comes in danger, which is being witnessed at present, Khera claimed.

His remarks come a day after Gandhi said in Bhopal that "as soon as Trump signalled from there, picked up the



phone and said, 'what are you doing Modi ji? Narender, surrender'... and Modi ji obeyed Trump's orders with 'Ji Huzoor'." Calling on people to remember 1971, Gandhi said that back then a phone call had not come but the US had sent its 7th fleet, weapons, and an aircraft carrier, but Indira Gandhi didn't surrender and said she would go by national interest.

Referring to the BJP and the RSS, Gandhi said they are habituated to writing "surrender letters" since Independence.

The opposition party's assertions came after the BJP accused Gandhi of insulting the armed forces with his "surrender" barb at Prime Minister Modi, saying that it amounted to undermining the success of Operation Sindoor.

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the Congress leader has surpassed even the Pakistani army chief, its prime minister and terrorist masterminds based there in speaking in support of the neighbouring country, and alleged that his jibes reflect a sick and dangerous mindset.

Hitting back at the BJP, Khera said, "When the brave Indian Army had Pakistan on its knees, Trump called and Narendra Modi surrendered. Trump said many times that we got the ceasefire done by threatening with trade,

US intervened between India and Pakistan to "broker a ceasefire" has shown how Modi government "surrendered" India's interests, "admonished" India's long-standing stand in the Shimla Agreement, hyphenated India and Pakistan, allowing the US to even talk about talks at a 'neutral site', Khera alleged.

"If you look at the 11 years of tenure of Narendra Modi, you will see him surrendering every time. They used to say that they will bring back black money, eliminate unemployment, double the income of farmers and show red eyes to China — but they surrendered," he claimed.

"The situation has become such that when they (government) talk about China they give them a clean chit....they are unable to take China's name and make fun of the looks of the people of North-East and insult Lord Ganesha. It is said that Ganesh ji's eyes are small and they do not open. Why does Narendra Modi not make a policy that goods will not be purchased from China?" Khera said.

Khera alleged that Modi had taken training from actor Paresh Rawal in mouthing dialogues and speeches.

He alleged that in the Modi government, all the policies within the country are being run by trolls and the foreign policy outside the country is being run by a person "who has surrendered".

# PM, EAM 'totally quiet' on Indian students being affected badly by Trump's actions: Congress



NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): Expressing concern over the US' decisions affecting foreign students, the Congress on Wednesday said China has reacted strongly regarding their students but Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar have remained "totally quiet" on how Indian students are being affected by the move.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh pointed out that according to the Ministry of External Affairs, approximately 3,37,630 Indian students went to the USA for higher studies in 2024 and about a third of the foreign students on American campuses are from India.

This means that some three-and-a-half lakh Indian families invested their hard-earned savings or borrowed for the education of their children in the US, he said.

"These students, plus those who went in earlier years, face an uncertain future. Large numbers of students planning to go in 2025 may never get to see their aspirations fulfilled," Ramesh said on X.

"President Trump has made his intentions clear. China has reacted strongly regarding Chinese students. But not surprisingly, our PM and

EAM have kept totally quiet," he said.

"They are completely silent on President Trump's claims on having Operation Sindoor stopped after just four days and they have not said a word of concern on how Indian students and their families are being affected badly by President Trump's actions," Ramesh said, slamming the government.

India last Thursday said it expects the US to consider visa applications of Indian students on merit amid growing concerns over the Trump administration halting new student visa interviews.

The changes effected by the US in its visa regime have triggered widespread uncertainty among students worldwide, including in India.

There have been concerns among the students planning to pursue studies in the US over the Trump administration's plan to expand social media vetting of student visa applicants.

# Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain summoned over Rs 2,000 cr 'scam' in classroom construction

NEW DELHI, Jun 4 (Agencies): The Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has summoned AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain over alleged graft in the construction of classrooms in government schools, an official said on Wednesday.

Jain has been asked to appear before the ACB on June 6, while Sisodia has been summoned for questioning on June 9, he said.

The summons come after an FIR was registered by the ACB on April 30 based on allegations of financial irregularities to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore in the construction of over 12,000 classrooms or semi-permanent structures in Delhi government schools.

Officials said Sisodia, who held the finance and education portfolios of the previous AAP government in the national capital, and Jain, then in charge of the public works department and other ministries, are being questioned in connection with alleged lapses flagged by the Central Vigilance

Commission (CVC).

"The CVC's Chief Technical Examiner's report pointed out multiple anomalies in the project. The report was allegedly not acted upon for nearly three years," Joint Commissioner of Police (ACB) Madhur Verma said.

The FIR was registered after obtaining approval under Section 17-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act from the competent authority, Verma added.

In 2019, BJP leaders Kapil Mishra, Harish Khurana and Neelkant Bakshi had filed a complaint with the ACB, alleging serious financial irregularities in the construction of classrooms across three zones of Delhi.

According to the complaint, the average cost per classroom was pegged at Rs 24.86 lakh — significantly higher than the estimated Rs 5 lakh cost for similar structures.

An investigation is currently underway and further action will be taken based on findings from the ongoing inquiry, officials said.

# Medical aspirant, 18, shoots self dead in Madhya Pradesh after poor result: Cops

BHOPAL, Jun 4 (Agencies): A medical aspirant reportedly took his own life upon realising that his exam marks were insufficient to secure admission. The tragic incident occurred in the Maharajpura police station area of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

The 18-year-old student, preparing for the NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) exam, was found dead after using his father's licensed firearm, police said on Wednesday.

"He had been awaiting the release of the exam's answer key, and when it became available around 7 p.m., his father asked him about his marks. The student appeared visibly distressed and withdrawn. When his father did not receive an answer, he went

downstairs to check the results himself. In the meantime, the student entered his father's room and shot himself with the licensed revolver. His father, a retired serviceman, later identified the student as Nikhil Pratap Singh," said Dharmendra Yadav, investigation officer.

The officer confirmed that the young man had been struggling with the realisation that his performance did not meet expectations.

Conversations about his exam results and performance seemed to weigh heavily on him, ultimately leading to this tragic decision.

According to the official, Nikhil used his father's firearm to inflict a fatal wound.

Family members rushed to the scene upon

hearing the gunshot and immediately transported him to a nearby hospital, where doctors confirmed his passing. His body was later sent for a post-mortem.

Reports indicate that Nikhil's father had settled in Gwalior to support his sons' education. He was actively involved in his son's preparation for the NEET exam and frequently accompanied him to coaching sessions.

Officials stated that "no suicide note was found at the scene".

The student's elder brother is currently pursuing a B.Tech degree.

The authorities have registered a case and initiated an investigation to understand the circumstances surrounding the incident.



# South Korea's President Lee takes power after sweeping election win

*South Korea typically has a longer transition period, but because Lee's victory came in a snap election after ex-president Yoon Suk's impeachment, his term began right away.*

SEOUL, Jun 4 (Agencies): South Korea's centre-left Lee Jae-myung was declared president Wednesday after winning a snap election, taking the helm of a nation deeply divided after his predecessor's disastrous attempt to declare martial law.

Lee won a thumping victory over conservative Kim Moon-soo, of disgraced ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol's former party, with his term beginning immediately after the National Election Commission certified the vote tally early Wednesday.

Lee secured 49.4 percent of the vote, far ahead of Kim on 41.2 percent -- who was hampered by party infighting and a third party candidate splitting the right-wing vote.

South Korea typically has a longer transition period, but because Lee's victory came in a snap election after Yoon's impeachment, his term began right away.

"The National Election Commission hereby declares Lee Jae-myung of the Democratic Party as the elected president," its chairperson Roh Tae-ak said early Wednesday.

Kim had conceded hours earlier, as final votes were still being counted. Official results showed he had no chance of winning.

Lee assumed office just hours before the United States was set to slap tariffs of 50 percent on South Korea's crucial steel and aluminium exports -- although markets reacted favourably to the election, with the benchmark KOSPI and the



won rising Wednesday.

Lee takes charge of a nation still reeling from the turmoil sparked by Yoon's martial law declaration in December and the rise of the far right in its aftermath -- a development experts say has deeply shaken the country's collective sense of democracy.

In a speech to supporters early Wednesday, Lee urged South Koreans to move "forward with hope and make a fresh start from this moment on".

He also promised to "pursue dialogue, communication, and cooperation" with North Korea, with whom the South remains technically at war, "to find a path toward peaceful coexistence and shared prosperity".

Lee started his first day in office speaking to the military's top commander, formally confirming the transfer of operational control of the country's armed forces.

He urged soldiers to "maintain a firm readiness posture" against any North Korean threats, and commended the

country's military for their conduct during the martial law crisis, saying they'd "helped prevent the country from descending into further chaos".

Lee then headed to the National Cemetery, where many of the country's former heads of state are buried, to pay his respects.

A modest inauguration ceremony will likely follow at the National Assembly -- the same site where Yoon deployed armed troops on the night he attempted to suspend civilian rule.

Blue House calling?

It will be a muted affair with just a few hundred guests expected to attend, in contrast to the large outdoor events held after regularly scheduled elections, which often attract tens of thousands.

The new leader will then head to the presidential office to begin naming key cabinet members.

Ex-president Yoon moved the seat of power from the traditional Blue House to a hastily converted government building

in Yongsan, which Lee previously said he would not use.

The focus will be on who is tapped to serve as presidential chief of staff, prime minister and director of the National Intelligence Service.

The day is expected to end with a flurry of congratulatory phone calls from world leaders, with US President Donald Trump likely to be the first on the line.

Trump's top diplomat, Marco Rubio, was swift to offer his own congratulations and voice hope for working with Lee, who previously has sought greater distance from the United States.

Washington's alliance with Seoul was "ironclad," the US secretary of state said in a statement, citing "shared values and deep economic ties".

Lee comes to power with his party already holding a parliamentary majority -- secure for the next three years -- meaning he is likely to be able to get his legislative agenda done.

Lee is also likely to herald a major shift in South Korea's foreign policy, Gi-Wook Shin, a sociology professor at Stanford University, told agency.

"Lee is expected to prioritize the alliance with the United States while simultaneously seeking engagement with both China and North Korea," he said.

That marks a departure from the policies of predecessors including Yoon, "who largely focused on North Korea and the United States, respectively".

## Pakistan must end terror support and stop blaming India, says UK-based activist Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

LONDON, Jun 4 (Agencies): Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza, a political analyst and human rights advocate from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir based in the UK, has termed the latest charges against India by Pakistani authorities as "baseless and misleading," in an exclusive interview with agency.

"A classic example of psychological projection by a state long implicated in terrorism across the region," he said of the accusations.

Dr. Mirza's remarks came in response to Field Marshal Asim Munir and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Balochistan, where they accused India of supporting terrorism in Pakistan during talks with tribal elders in Quetta. According to Dr. Mirza, these narratives are outdated and aimed at deflecting attention from Pakistan's long history of sponsoring terrorism.

He highlighted that the international community has repeatedly acknowledged Pakistan's role in fostering terrorism. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has consistently placed Pakistan on its grey list for failing to



address money laundering and terror financing. Terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) reportedly operate under covert state protection despite international criticism.

Dr. Mirza also pointed to Pakistan's continued support for UN-designated terrorists including Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar, and Dawood Ibrahim--individuals held responsible for major terrorist attacks like the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2019 Pulwama bombing--who remain free and protected by the state.

He condemned Pakistan's brutal suppression of the Baloch freedom movement through Islamist militias and military forces. Citing reports from international human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, Dr. Mirza noted

widespread abuses in Balochistan, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances. He said these violations expose Pakistan's true internal policies and contradict its attempts to blame others.

Dr. Mirza asserted that terrorism remains a tool of Pakistan's state policy. He recalled how former President Pervez Musharraf admitted to supporting militant groups to "internationalise" the Kashmir conflict. He added that this deliberate use of terror has caused chronic instability and suffering in South Asia.

In conclusion, Dr. Mirza urged Pakistan to abandon baseless propaganda and take genuine steps toward accountability and reform. He called on the Pakistani government to demilitarise Balochistan, halt human rights abuses, and dismantle its terror infrastructure, which is widely condemned internationally. He stressed that India remains committed to peace, cooperation, and dialogue based on mutual respect and responsibility--principles Pakistan must embrace for true regional harmony.

## Pak security forces kill 14 terrorists in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Jun 4 (Agencies): Security forces mowed down 14 terrorists in an intelligence-based operation at a tribal district bordering Afghanistan in northwest Pakistan, military media wing said on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations, "On June 2-3, 2025, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in general area of Datta Khel, North Waziristan district, on a reported presence of terrorists."

The troops raided a terrorist hideout in the area.

"After an intense



exchange of fire, 14 khwarij were sent to hell," the statement said.

"Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in

the area.

The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of sponsored terrorism from the country," it added.

## Taiwan President Lai marks Tiananmen anniversary, warns of rising authoritarian threats to global democracy

TAIPEI, Jun 4 (Agencies): President Lai Ching-te used social media on Wednesday to mark the 36th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, emphasising the value of protecting freedom and democracy, according to a report by Focus Taiwan.

"Every year on June 4, Taiwanese society lights candles of commemoration anchored in the universal ideals shared by democracies," Lai stated, adding that the act was "not just about commemorating the history but also about maintaining the memory" of the incident, according to Focus Taiwan.

Democracies "have a



duty" to preserve history, he said, whereas authoritarian regimes obliterate it. According to the Focus Taiwan report, Lai also cautioned that the threat of

authoritarianism through monitoring, extraterritorial repression, military intimidation, and grey-zone coercion still poses a threat to democratic societies around the

world 36 years later.

He said Taiwan will continue to engage with like-minded allies to "safeguard the status quo" and maintain democracy and freedom, adding that Taiwan is on the frontlines of defending democratic ideals globally, according to Focus Taiwan.

Lai claimed that Taiwan's transition to democracy was made possible by the sacrifices and hard work of many pro-democracy activists, after decades of authoritarian rule. He stated, "We deeply understand the value of freedom and must not ignore the threats posed by authoritarian expansion to global democ-

racy and the rule of law," as cited by Focus Taiwan report.

Under the direction of then-Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese military violently suppressed peaceful Chinese student protesters who had assembled in Beijing's Tiananmen Square to demand political reform in the early hours of June 4, 1989. The tragedy, which is still a sensitive and extensively suppressed topic in China, is thought to have killed between several hundred and possibly over 1,000 people, according to a Focus Taiwan report; however, some speculate that the death toll may have been greater.

## Sheikh Mujib's freedom fighter status has not been revoked, says Yunus's deputy press secretary

DHAKA, Jun 4 (Agencies): Bangladesh's interim government on Wednesday clarified that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's freedom fighter status has not been revoked.

Bangladesh's interim government on Wednesday clarified that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's freedom fighter status has not been revoked.

Bangladeshi media reported that Mujibnagar government leaders, including Sheikh Mujib, had their freedom fighter status revoked, but the government clarified that Mujibnagar government leaders, including Mujib, will remain freedom fighters.

Adviser to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Faruk-e-Azam, said that those who were in the

Mujibnagar government were also freedom fighters. Those who fought the liberation war with arms and those who led it were freedom fighters. However, the officials and employees of that government were associates of the liberation war.

He said that according to the Jamuka Ordinance, diplomats including the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra are associate freedom fighters. Associate does not mean that their honour has been tarnished.

There are four categories of freedom fighters: first, those Bangladeshi professionals who made special contributions to the liberation war abroad and played an active role in shaping world public opinion.



Secondly, those who served as officials, employees, envoys, and other assistants under the Bangladesh Government (Mujibnagar) formed during the Liberation War.

Thirdly, all the artists and technicians of the Swadhin Bangla Radio Station and all the Bangladeshi journalists who served in support of the

Liberation War at home and abroad.

Fourthly, the Swadhin Bangla Football Team.

Bangladesh gained independence through a nine-month bloody war in 1971 against Pakistan under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. India helped Bangladesh achieve independence.

## Cologne starts its biggest evacuation since 1945 to defuse World War II bombs

COLOGNE, Jun 4 (Agencies): More than 20,000 residents were being evacuated from part of Cologne's city centre on Wednesday as specialists prepared to defuse three unexploded US bombs from World War II that were unearthed earlier this week.

Even 80 years after the end of the war, unexploded bombs dropped during wartime air raids are frequently found in Germany.

Disposing of them sometimes entails large-scale precautionary evacuations such as the one on Wednesday, though the location this time was unusually prominent and this is Cologne's biggest evacuation since 1945. There have been bigger evacuations in other cities.

Authorities on Wednesday morning started evacuating about 20,500 residents from an area within a 1,000-m (3,280-ft) radius of the bombs, which were discovered on Monday during preparato-



ry work for road construction. They were found in the Deutz district, just across the Rhine river from Cologne's historic centre.

As well as homes, the area includes 58 hotels, nine schools, several museums and office buildings and the Messe/Deutz train station. It also includes three bridges across the Rhine -- among them the heavily used Hohenzollern

railway bridge, which leads into Cologne's central station and is being shut during the defusal work itself. Shipping on the Rhine will also be suspended.

The plan is for the bombs to be defused during the course of the day. When exactly that happens depends on how long it takes for authorities to be sure that everyone is out of the evacuation zone.



# MLA Pawan Gupta inaugurates road blacktopping work in Dandyal

## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jun 4: In a step aimed at enhancing local infrastructure, MLA and former Minister of State for Finance and IT, Pawan Kumar Gupta, on Wednesday inaugurated the black-topping of the main road at Dandyal in Ward No. 21, Udhampur.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from residents and local leaders, including BJP Secretary Udhampur Rohit Sethi, Lumbardar Ram Lal, and several prominent citizens like Ashok Kumar, Anil, Inder Vikas, Kamaljeet, Ankush, Hem Raj, Aswani Kumar, and



Rattan Lal. Addressing the gathering, Gupta emphasized the importance of reliable civic infrastructure, stating that development must not be delayed. He reiterated his commitment to delivering quality amenities and ensuring every ward receives the attention it deserves.

The newly blacktopped road is expected to significantly benefit the

people of Dandyal and neighboring areas by improving commute safety, reducing vehicle wear, and minimizing dust pollution.

During the interaction, the MLA also heard public grievances and assured timely action on pending development work. Residents expressed gratitude, applauding Shri Gupta's proactive approach and commitment to grass-roots progress.

The event concluded with a strong message of continued development and inclusive growth for all wards under the MLA's vision.

# Nasha Mukht Bharat programme held at GHSS Mangit



## Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 4: A Nasha Mukht Bharat programme was organized at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Mangit, Zone Khari, Ramban, on Wednesday.

Various stakeholders participated, including Niab Tehsildar Khari, BDO Khari, Medical Officer PHC Mangit, Ex-Sarpanches, Panchayat members, schoolchildren, senior citizens, and

teachers.

Dignitaries like Niab Tehsildar Khari Manzoor, Medical Officer Dr. Arif, Ex-Sarpanch Farooq Sheikh, and Incharge Headmaster HS Mangit (Vice Chairman JKTF) delivered awareness speeches.

The programme concluded with Incharge HM HS Mangit, Mehmood ur Raiz Bhat, leading the participants in a pledge to work towards a Nasha Mukht Bharat, reaffirming their commitment to a drug-free society.

# Brochure of first English Literary and Cultural Magazine of Chenab Region “The Chenab Zephyr” released



## Top News Report

DODA, Jun 4: In a function organised at Govt Degree College Doda the brochure of the first English literary and cultural magazine from Chenab Region was released today. Prof. (Dr) Javid Iqbal Principal GDC Doda, Dr Jamsheed Ahmad Chief Editor of the magazine, Prof Anoj Kumar Co-Editor, Prof Falak Member and Prof Naz Zargar members of the editorial board were present on the occasion.

In conversation with the media Dr Jamsheed Ahmad informed that The Chenab Zephyr is a dream project which was being planned for many years now. It is an exciting venture that aims to capture and celebrate the rich literary and cultural traditions of the Chenab Region. The initiative seeks to provide a prominent platform for the young poets, writers and scholars of this region offering them a pio-

neering opportunity to showcase their literary prowess and contribute to a boarder cultural dialogue.

Reputed education-ists who are a part of the editorial board and contributed in the idea are Dr Tanvir Ahmed from BGSBU Rajouri, Dr Amit Kumar from Delhi University, Dr Waqar Younis from GDC Kilhotran, Ms Mussarat Jahan Senior Lecturer, Dr Sadia Hasan from Govt Polytechnic Uttar Pradesh, Ms Anu Radha Teacher, and Mr Sayer Shabir from Jamia Milia Islamia.

Raiees Khurwani and Atiya Rifat are the graphic designers of the magazine.

The entries for the first issue which shall be released in Nov.-Dec. 2025 shall be accepted upto 31 July 2025 with the aim to provide space where local literature and voices thrive and where young minds can come together to explore and give an expression to their creativity. The magazine is

open for all and poems, short stories, articles, creative pieces and other forms of written works can be submitted for publication.

# Ajeet Bhagat urges PSA Action against disruptors of Rattle Hydroelectric Project

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 4: Senior National Conference leader and spokesperson for Chenab Valley Zone, Ajeet Bhagat, has called for stringent action under the Public Safety Act against individuals allegedly trying to disrupt the Rattle Hydroelectric Project. Bhagat accused certain “goons” of creating chaos in the name of unions and attempting to halt work on the national infrastructure project through blackmail and intimidation.

In a press statement, Bhagat urged the Deputy Commissioner and SSP of Kishtwar, along with the Jammu and Kashmir and Cen-



tral governments, to intervene immediately. He warned that if such disruptive elements are not curbed, they could jeopardize the entire project. Emphasizing the project's national importance, he also called for mobilization of security agencies to ensure its smooth progress.

# SWD Reasi organizes Yoga and Meditation Camp under NMBA

## Top News Report

REASI, Jun 4: The Department of Social Welfare (SWD), Reasi in collaboration with Ayush Department organised a Yoga and Meditation camp as part of the ongoing ‘Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan’ campaign at Polytechnic College Reasi.

The event witnessed the participation of around 50 students from different educational institutions. The event was organized under the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer, Reasi Sachin Sharma.

The event featured a guided session by a qualified Yoga Instructor, Majid Malik from Ayush Department, Reasi focusing on physical well-being and mental clarity.

The event focused on developing various Yoga techniques that helps in developing discipline and commitment to prosper a healthy and drug-free society.

Addressing the participants, DSWO Reasi, Sachin Sharma stressed the importance of adopting Yoga techniques in modern era to unite mind, body and spirit. Events like

this not only encourage a healthy lifestyle but also promote drug free society by developing overall strength to stay away from substance abuse and drug addiction. Such initiatives are essential to channelise the growing energy of youth towards positive pursuits like community engagement and fitness. The event concluded with Pledge against Drug abuse.

SI Jarnail Singh from Police Department, Faculty members of Polytechnic College Reasi and Staff of Social Welfare Department were also present.

# Crack Academy announces centre partnership opportunities in Chamba to boost employment Applications are open for Banikhet, Churah, Dalhousie, Bhattiyat centers partner

## Top News Report

CHAMBA, Jun 4: In a major step towards employment generation, Crack Academy announces opportunities for centre partnerships in Chamba. Building on the momentum of over 70 centres already established across Himachal Pradesh, this opportunity will not only deliver high-quality, affordable coaching to students in the district but also generate direct jobs and unlock countless indirect employment avenues throughout Chamba. Opportunities are still open in Banikhet, Churah, Dalhousie, and Bhattiyat.

Interested candidates can apply for these four locations.

Over the past year, Crack Academy has witnessed an overwhelming response from aspiring centre partners across its centres in Himachal Pradesh, receiving thousands of applications even before the initial openings were announced. Now, with this new call for partners in Chamba, entrepreneurs and educators have a unique chance to collaborate with Crack Academy's centralized selection team and bring world-class competitive-exam preparation to their communities.

Neeraj Kansal, Found-

er and CEO, Crack Academy, said, “Our mission has always been to make affordable, top-tier coaching accessible in every corner of Himachal Pradesh.

By inviting partners in Chamba, we're not only strengthening the state's educational infrastructure but also empowering local stakeholders to become catalysts for academic excellence and job creation. Together, we will equip thousands of students with the personalized guidance, expert mentorship, and curated study materials they need to achieve success in exams like JEE, NEET, CDS, SSC, Bank,



Railway, and more.”

These centres in Chamba are envisioned as powerful learning hubs, offering students personalized coaching, expert mentorship, curated study materials, and a systematic approach to competitive exam preparation. Beyond academics, this

Academy Centre is a profitable business and is set to generate permanent monthly income for centre partners, with additional indirect employment expected in diverse sectors.

To ensure high standards, Crack Academy follows a centralized partner selection pro-

cess, wherein interested applicants must undergo evaluation by the academy's core team. Selected partners receive comprehensive training, operational guidance, and marketing support, enabling them to launch and manage centres efficiently from the outset.

# Instances of corruption, Misconduct within judiciary impact public confidence: CJI Gavai

regarding the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, as it may be seen as a conflict of interest or as an attempt to gain favour with the government.

“In light of this, many of my colleagues and I have publicly pledged not to accept any post-retirement roles or positions from the government. This commitment is an effort to preserve the credibility and independence of the judiciary,” CJI Gavai said.

He further emphasised that in this digital era, where information flows freely and perceptions are rapidly

shaped, the judiciary must rise to the challenge of being accessible, intelligible, and answerable, without compromising its independence.

CJI Gavai highlighted the steps taken by the apex court in enhancing transparency and accessibility and said to bolster public confidence through transparency has been the voluntary disclosure of assets by the judges of the Supreme Court, promoting greater accountability and setting an example of ethical leadership.

“The Supreme Court has itself held that judges, as public functionaries, are accountable to the people. The court maintains a dedicated portal where judges' declarations are made public, demonstrating that judges are willing to subject themselves to a degree of scrutiny, similar to other civil functionaries,” he said.

CJI Gavai added that to enhance public transparency, the Supreme

Court of India also initiated live-streaming of its Constitution-bench cases. “However, as with any powerful tool, live streaming must be wielded with care, as fake news or out-of-context court proceedings can negatively shape public perception. Only last week, one of my colleagues in a lighter vein counselled a junior counsel on the art of court craft and soft skills. Instead, his statement was taken out of context and reported in the media as, ‘Our ego is very fragile; if you offend it, your case will go out,’ the CJI flagged.

CJI Gavai also justified the collegium system for appointment of judges in higher judiciary and pointed out that until 1993, it was the executive that had the final say in the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts. “During this period, the executive twice superseded the senior-most judges in appointing the CJI, which went against established tradi-

tion,” he said, adding the collegium system was meant to reduce executive interference and maintain the judiciary's autonomy in its appointments. He said, “There may be criticisms of collegium system, but any solution must not come at the cost of judicial independence. Judges must be free from external control.”

## India's Covid tally rises to 4302; 2 More deaths in 24 hours

are witnessing renewed increases in Covid-19 cases, the overall fatality rate remains low, with most infected individuals experiencing mild symptoms. In response to the rising numbers, the governments of Delhi and Uttarakhand have issued advisories urging hospitals to prepare adequately by ensur-

ing sufficient beds, oxygen supplies, medicines, and vaccines. Currently, the most prevalent variant in India is JN.1, accounting for 53% of tested samples, followed by BA.2 at 26%, along with other Omicron sublineages making up the remaining 20%, as per the health experts.

## SPO arrested for drug peddling in Udhampur, Heroin recovered

Udhampur and a resident of Shakti Nagar, Udhampur. Police recovered 5.64 grams of heroin-like contraband substance from his possession. A case has been registered under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at Police Station Udhampur.

Further investigation into the

matter is underway.

## Kashmir youth dies in Delhi, family alleges foul play

beaten in Delhi locality where he was staying. “We urge authorities to conduct a fair probe into the matter and bring the culprits to justice,” the family members said.

## Youth killed, 2 others injured in Qazigund road accident

have been identified as Huzaif Nawaz Bhat, son of Nawaz Ahmad Bhat, resident of Baihama and Zaid Ahmad Shah, son of Mohammad Shafi Shah, resident of Baihama. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the accident.

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# Registrations for Epic Victory Cricket League in Kashmir open

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 4: The registrations for the trials for the upcoming have been met with overwhelming response from the locals of Srinagar other cities. Due to this overwhelming response, the management has decided to open up more slots on the days of the trials and is open to new registrations.

Slated on the 28th of June, the trials at Doon International School, Srinagar are a unique opportunity for local heroes to participate in the upcoming inaugural season of the Epic Victory Cricket League. Launched in Kashmir, earlier this year, the EVCL presents local talent the chance to

make their mark and showcase their talent amongst local, Indian and International cricketers.

“EVCL will provide a much-needed platform for young players not only in Jammu and Kashmir but also from states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

The league will have a mix of emerging talents and experienced domestic players, providing an opportunity for learning and guidance. It is not just a tournament; it will be a platform to change lives and I urge all the young cricketers of Jammu & Kashmir to participate in huge numbers in the trials,” said Praveen Kumar, League Commissioner, EVCL.

The eligibility for these trials are simply any

male cricketers from the ages of 14 to 39 which will showcase their talent under the watchful eyes of a selection committee consisting of selectors from the state cricketing associations and the apex council of the EVCL.

Registrations are live on [www.evcl.co.in](http://www.evcl.co.in) and complete information will be provided on the website.

The league is set to broadcast on one of the leading OTT platform with coverage in over 7 languages that will include English, Hindi and in a first of its kind, Kashmiri and Dogra to include the vast population of the region that would enjoy cricketing action in their own language for the first time ever.

# Kathua Youth Services Department holds clean-up drive, karate trials to mark World Environment Day



## Top News Report

KATHUA, Jun 4: In celebration of World Environment Day, the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kathua, conducted a major clean-up drive across multiple zones, aiming to raise awareness about environmental conservation and the dangers of plastic pollution. The drive, conducted in Bani, Malhar, and Billawar zones, witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 2,000 students and staff members from various schools in the district.

The clean-up initiative focused on promoting a

plastic-free environment and instilling a sense of responsibility among the younger generation toward sustainable living. Students actively participated in cleaning their local surroundings while also advocating for eco-friendly practices and a cleaner, greener future.

Alongside the environmental campaign, the department organized an Inter-School District Level Selection Trial in Karate for both boys and girls under the U14 and U17 age categories. This event provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills and secure a place in the district team.

In the U17 Boys Category, the winners were 35 kg: Rajwansh Verma, DAV School Lachhipur; 40 kg: Jasbeer Singh, HS Tridwan; 45 kg: Tanish Singh, HS Tridwan; 50 kg: Rudhar Kumar Dogra, Learning Temple; 55 kg: Girish Verma, Sai International School Hiranagar

The twin events underscored the department's dual focus on environmental awareness and the holistic development of youth through active sports participation. The Department of Youth Services and Sports continues to play a pivotal role in shaping responsible and physically fit future citizens.

# 41 rural girls join 15th Academic Summer Camp of HRBE Foundation



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: The Harbans Roshan Bhalla (HRBE) Educational Foundation inaugurated its 15th Academic Summer Camp on Wednesday.

41 girls from classes 8th, 9th, and 10th are participating in this 14-day residential camp, being held from June 4 to 17, 2025. The students come from various rural areas, including Arnia, Jourian, Doomi, Patti, Kore-Jagir Nagrota, Bathera, Amb, Marjali, Kangrail, Prithipur, Udhampur, Akalpur, Gurah Brahmana, Garh

Mandi and many other villages in the region.

The camp was inaugurated by Professor Poonam Dhawan, Former Dean of Academic Affairs at Jammu University and Cluster University of Jammu. She addressed the students and emphasized the importance of learning life lessons early on, which would guide them throughout their lives.

The camp offers a valuable opportunity for students to develop both academic and personal skills. Participants will benefit from lectures on life skills, physical activities, academic support,

and personality development. Additionally, health checkups are conducted by doctors. Balanced wholesome meals are provided throughout the camp.

The students engage in a variety of enriching activities, including drama, debates, yoga, music, picnics, sports, arts and craft. Counseling sessions are also organized with psychology scholars.

The Managing Trustee, Kunil Bhalla, addressed the students and parents to highlight the objectives of the camp. He emphasized the importance of utilizing this opportunity to raise academic and personal standards.

The participants and their parents expressed great enthusiasm and excitement about the camp. They shared their joy in being part of the Harbans Roshan Bhalla Educational Foundation and spoke warmly about their long-standing association with the organization over the years.

# Phy Edu Deptt wins Inter-Departmental Cricket (Men) Tournament 2025–26

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: The Inter-Departmental Cricket (Men) Tournament 2025–26, organized by the University of Jammu, concluded on a high note with an electrifying final match at the University Cricket Ground. In a thrilling contest, the Department of Physical Education emerged victorious, defeating the Department of SHTM by 28 runs to clinch the championship title.

The final witnessed enthusiastic attendance from students, faculty members, and cricket enthusiasts who gathered in large numbers to support their teams. The lively atmosphere, filled with cheers and excitement, added to the grandeur of the concluding match of the prestigious tournament.

The Physical Education Department won the



toss and chose to bat first. They made a strong statement by posting a formidable total of 163/4 in 18 overs.

The batting highlight was a phenomenal knock by Ankush, who scored 87 runs off just 53 balls, featuring 9 boundaries and 3 sixes. He was well supported by Aryan Bhalwal, who contributed a steady 55 runs off 38 deliveries. Their crucial partnership set the tone for a challenging chase. On the bowling front for

SHTM, Rahul Sharma stood out by taking two important wickets that briefly slowed down the opposition's momentum.

In reply, the Department of SHTM displayed commendable grit and determination in their pursuit of the 164-run target. Anirudh Raina anchored the innings with a valiant 60 off 47 balls, hitting 6 fours and 3 sixes, while Ishitiyaq added a fighting 33 off 26 balls. Despite their efforts, the team fell short, managing 135/6

in 18 overs.

The Physical Education bowlers maintained pressure throughout the innings, with Shoib Naik delivering an outstanding spell, taking 2 wickets for just 9 runs in 3 overs. Additional support came from Shoaib Malik, Sandy, Jagmohan, and Sachin, who each claimed a wicket, ensuring that SHTM could not gain the upper hand.

The tournament was held under the direct supervision of Dr. Daud

Iqbal Baba, Chairman of the Campus Sports Committee, whose continuous efforts have played a pivotal role in nurturing a vibrant sports culture at the university. The smooth conduct and fair play of the event were ensured by Raj Kumar Bakshi, Incharge PTI, who handled the coordination with precision and professionalism.

Match officiating was conducted by respected officials Vijay Kumar, Ashok Singh, Raj Kumar Bakshi, and Anirudh Singh, whose experience and fair judgment contributed to the match's success.

The tournament not only showcased remarkable cricketing skills and sportsmanship but also reflected the spirit of unity, healthy competition, and campus engagement among various departments of the University of Jammu.

# People’s Hut Foundation, AAI Jammu host successful free multi-speciality medical camp

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: The People's Hut Foundation, in a collaborative effort with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) Jammu, organized a Free Multi-Speciality Medical Camp today under its “Mobile Health Clinic Program” at the Jammu Airport. The day-long camp focused on providing essential medical check-ups and medicines to the dedicated airport and airline staff.

The free medical camp was inaugurated by Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director, Airport Authority of India Jammu, alongside Dr. Rohit Koul, Director and CEO of People's Hut Foundation.

The initiative received vital support from Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity, Sharp Sight Eye Hospital Jammu, the Directorate of Ayush J&K, and SOTTO J&K, underscoring a broad commitment to public health.

Sanjeev Kumar Garg, the esteemed Airport Director of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) Jammu while inaugurating the camp applauded the diligent efforts of the People's Hut Foundation for their consistent



work in organizing crucial community medical camps and added we all have a role to play in contributing back to the society and we should come forward and contribute to the humanitarian cause.

This camp, part of the People's Hut Foundation's ongoing “Mobile Health Clinic Program,” exemplifies the organization's dedication to enhancing the well-being and healthcare accessibility of citizens, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir.

Patients received consultations from a wide range of specialist doctors, including Physicians, Physiotherapists, Oncologists, Eye Specialists, Dentists, and Orthopaedic spe-

cialists, complemented by various diagnostic services. This comprehensive approach ensured a wide array of medical issues could be addressed efficiently.

The seamless coordination of the event was managed by Ayushmaan Sharma and Suhaib Nasir Khan, Terminal Managers of Airport Authority of India.

This initiative by the NGO People's Hut Foundation highlights its multifaceted role in the region, extending beyond traditional aid to include significant humanitarian and social welfare activities.

Dr. Rohit Koul, Director and CEO of the People's Hut Foundation, emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stat-

ing, “The availability of specialist consultations marks a significant step towards improving healthcare access for individuals who often face challenges in accessing quality medical care. We are committed to bringing essential medical services closer to communities.” A total of 146 patients benefited from the free medical services provided during the camp.

Expert medical teams contributed significantly to the camp's success and included Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity provided specialist doctors including Dr. Jaspreet Singh, Dr. Harsheen Bali, Dr. Richu Sharma, alongside their management staff Dinesh Sharma and Ritvik

Mahajan.

Sharp Sight Eye Hospital Jammu offered comprehensive ophthalmological services, with the support of Rahul Kumar, Showket Razaq Bhat, and Deepak Kumar. SOTTO J&K was represented by Dr. Irfan Ahmad Lone, Transplant Coordinator.

The Ayush department also provided their valuable services under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, Director Ayush, and DAO Jammu Dr. Vandana Dogra. The Ayush medicine distribution camp was meticulously organized by Dr. D.K Sharma, Dr. Arun Sharma, Jyoti Sharma, and Pharmacist Ankit.

During the inauguration, dignitaries urged residents to take full advantage of these Multi-Speciality Medical Camps.

The event garnered widespread appreciation and lauded the organizers for making essential healthcare accessible right at their doorstep.

The successful execution of the initiative was a testament to the collaborative spirit of medical professionals, volunteers, and social workers who participated.

# BJP organizes ‘Sankalp Se Siddhi’ review meeting at Anantnag

## Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jun 4: As part of the ongoing nationwide campaign to celebrate 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's transformative and visionary leadership, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K held a ‘Sankalp Se Siddhi’ review meeting at Dak Bungalow, Anantnag.

Sofi Yusuf, Vice President, J&K BJP, Rakesh Koul, District President Anantnag, Wani Mudassir, Sahil Bashir Bhat and others were amongst the prominent present in the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from District Presi-



dents, Constituency Presidents, District and Constituency Teams of South Kashmir from Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, and Pulwama Districts.

The gathering reaffirmed the cadre's unwavering dedication to the party's vision of development, good governance, and inclusive progress in the Union

Territory.

Addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul emphasized the importance of intensifying grassroots-level connect and effective public outreach to propagate the achievements of the Modi government. He urged the South Kashmir cadre to remain proactive in organizing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabhas,

Choupals, and public meetings to ensure that the message of development and national integration reaches every household.

He stressed the need to counter misinformation with facts, and encouraged the party workers to serve as ambassadors of PM Modi's vision for a peaceful, progressive,

and developed Jammu & Kashmir.

Ashok Koul also reiterated the importance of community involvement in environmental initiatives, including plantation drives, water conservation, and reducing plastic use, as key components of BJP's commitment to sustainable development.

The meeting concluded with a strong collective resolve by all South Kashmir teams to carry forward the objectives of ‘Sankalp Se Siddhi’ with full dedication.

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^The leaders pledged to strengthen booth-level work, enhance visibility of central schemes on the ground, and ensure every citizen of the region becomes a stakeholder in the dream of Viksit Bharat.



## “Fitting that jersey number 18 lifts....”: Cricketers, Karnataka politicians hail RCB for maiden IPL title win

*RCB ended their long wait for a title as standout bowling performances from Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and Yash Dayal secured a six-wicket win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.*



AHMEDABAD, Jun 4 (Agencies): Several members of the cricketing and political fraternity took to social media to celebrate Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) lifting their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy.

RCB ended their long wait for a title as standout bowling performances from Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and Yash Dayal secured a six-wicket win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar posted on the social media platform X, he wrote, “Congratulations to @RCBTweets on their first-ever IPL title. Fitting that jersey no. 18 lifts the trophy in the 18th edition. Well played and well deserved! Well played to @PunjabKingsIPL as well for a well-fought season.”

Former RCB skipper Faf du Plessis simply applauded the win. He wrote, “RCB (clapping emoji) @RCBTweets” Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya, whose brother Krunal was playing for RCB and delivered a match-winning spell, posted a story congratulating his brother on Instagram.

World Cup-winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh also posted how “the best stories are worth the wait”.

“Been a long wait, but the best stories are worth it! To win after 18 years takes more than talent It takes belief, resilience and fire. Congrats @RCBTweets on a well-earned title. Mas-

sive congratulations to @imVkohli All these seasons, one team and belief in that one dream! And what a moment to have @ABdeVilliers17 and @henrygayle at the ground cheering on the legacy they helped shape. Well done #RajatPatidar and to the entire team and support staff of #RCB! Tough luck to @PunjabKingsIPL. They played fearless cricket and came close! Led with great intent by @Shreyaslyer15! Chin up, boys. The fight was real, and so was the heart,” posted Yuvraj, who also represented RCB.

Former Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan also posted, “Ee Sala Cup Namde - Finally for real! Well-deserved win for RCB! After 18 long years, the team holds the trophy of Tata IPL 2025! With all the ups & downs, what an outstanding season this has been! Tough luck for PBKS, they gave it all, but it was RCB's night for sure! Well played, boys! #RCB-vsPBKS #IPLFinals

#IPL2025.”

Ex-South African opener Herschelle Gibbs also welcomed RCB to the “winners’ circle”.

Former West Indies pacer and commentator Ian Bishop also described Virat's journey to the title as worth the wait.

“Congratulations to @RCB on their first IPL title. Year 18 and number 18, a great story. The journey has been long, but surely worth the wait,” posted Bishop.

Ex-Indian cricketer Ambati Rayadu, a six-time IPL winner with Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), also posted, “Finally! Very Happy for Rcb and their amazing team and fans.. truly deserve it.. congratulations!!”

Former England captain Michael Vaughan also posted, “Finally @RCBTweets.. Well done .. #IPLFinal #Champions.”

Some notable Karnataka politicians also congratulated RCB on their win, including Chief Min-

ister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah posted, “Congratulations to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on a historic IPL triumph! The dream has finally come true - Ee Sala Cup Namde! From electrifying performances to unshakable spirit, this triumph has ignited the pride of Karnataka and thrilled fans across the world. #RCB #IPLChampions2025 #EeSalaCup-Namde.”

Whereas, Karnataka Deputy CM Shivkumar also shared, “18 years of wait.. It's been worth it .Thank you @RCBTweets

#RCBForever.”

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Basavaraj Bommai also wrote, “Hearty congratulations to the RCB team for becoming champions by defeating the #PunjabKings in the IPL final. The final match held at the #NarendraModiStadium in Ahmedabad was filled with excitement. With a fierce bowling attack and a well-coordinated team effort, RCB

ended their 18-year IPL trophy drought. Under the captaincy of Rajat Patidar, RCB fulfilled the dreams of millions of fans. Heartfelt congratulations to the entire @RCBTweets team!

Coming to the match, PBKS won the toss and elected to bowl first. Arshdeep Singh (3/40) and Kyle Jamieson (3/48) applied timely breaks with the ball, while Yuzi Chahal (1/37) also prevented batters from attacking. While Virat (43 in 35 balls, with three fours) tried to keep the innings together, skipper Rajat Patidar (26 in 16 balls, with a four and two sixes), Jitesh Sharma (24 in 10 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Liam Livingstone (25 in 15 balls, with two fours) upped the attack enough to help RCB post 190/9 in 20 overs.

In the run-chase, PBKS started well with Priyansh Arya (24 in 19 balls, with four boundaries) and Prabhsimran (26 in 22 balls, with two sixes) stitching a 43-run stand. Josh Inglis (39 in 23 balls, with a four and four sixes) and Shashank Singh (61\* in 30 balls, three wins and six sixes) tried their level best to keep up with the rising run rate, but Krunal Pandya (2/17), Yash Dayal (1/18) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/38) put a fine show with the ball to restrict PBKS to 184/7, despite a sensational 22 runs smashed by Shashank in the final over while needing 29.

The title wait continues for PBKS, who reached their second final and their first in 11 years.

## RCB get Rs 20 crore for winning IPL 2025, runners-up PBKS receive Rs 12.5 crore

AHMEDABAD, Jun 4 (Agencies): Newly-crowned IPL champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru have received Rs 20 crore for winning the 18th edition of the league while runners-up Punjab Kings got richer by Rs 12.5 crore.

RCB lifted their maiden title in the world's biggest T20 league by getting the better of PBKS by six runs in an exciting summit showdown here on Tuesday, ending a long wait of 18 years for the team as well as its talisman Virat Kohli.

Third-Place finishers Mumbai Indians earned Rs 7 crore for reaching Qualifier 2, while the fourth-placed Gujarat Titans were given Rs 6.5 crore for playing in the Eliminator.

Over the years, the IPL prize money has grown exponentially.

In the inaugural 2008 edition, the winning side received Rs 4.8 crore, whereas the runner-up team was awarded Rs 2.4 crore.

DDCA wins 'Best Pitch and Ground' award

The Delhi District Cricket Association

(DDCA) has got the 'Best Pitch and Ground' award for the matches held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Besides the recognition, DDCA also got richer by Rs 50 lakh.

The stadium hosted seven matches this season, all of them being preliminary fixtures.

DDCA President Rohan Jaitley expressed his gratitude, stating, “This award is a testament to the tireless work of our curators, staff, and management. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in cricket infrastructure.”

List of winners with prize purse:

Winners RCB: Rs 20 crore

Runners-up PBKS: Rs 12.5 crore

Third-placed Mumbai Indians: Rs 7 crore

Fourth-placed Gujarat Titans: Rs 6.5 crore

Orange Cap winner (Sai Sudharsan): Rs 10 lakh

Purple Cap winner (Prasidh Krishna): Rs 10 lakh

Emerging Player winner (Sai Sudharsan): Rs 10 lakh

Most Valuable Player (Suryakumar Yadav): Rs 15 lakh

Super Striker of the season (Vaibhav Suryavanshi): Rs 10 lakh + Tata Curvv car

Fantasy King of the season (Sai Sudharsan): Rs 10 lakh

Best Catch winner (Kamindu Mendis): Rs 10 lakh

Most Dot Balls (Mohammed Siraj): Rs 10 lakh

Super Sixes (Nicholas Pooran): Rs 10 lakh

Fours of the season (Sai Sudharsan): Rs 10 lakh

Fairplay Award (Chennai Super Kings): Rs 10 lakh

Pitch and Ground (Delhi Capitals home ground New Delhi): Rs 50 lakh

List of award winners in the RCB vs PBKS final Player of the Match (Krunal Pandya): Rs 5 lakh Super Striker (Jitesh Sharma): Rs 1 lakh Most Dot balls (Krunal Pandya): Rs 1 lakh Most fours (Priyansh Arya): Rs 1 lakh Fantasy King (Shashank Singh): Rs 1 lakh Most Sixes (Shashank Singh): Rs 1 lakh.

## Mitchell Marsh back to lead Australia in West Indies T20Is



SYDNEY, Jun 4 (Agencies): Mitchell Marsh will captain Australia on his return to the T20 squad named Wednesday for a five-match series in the West Indies, while explosive batsman Mitchell Owen earned a first call-up.

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood is back, having been rested for Australia's last T20 series against Pakistan in November, and left-arm spinner Matthew Kuhnemann makes the squad for the first time. Marsh missed the Pakistan series and has recovered from a lower back injury that kept him out of the Champions Trophy earlier this year.

Australia's Test and 50-over captain Pat Cummins, Travis Head and Mitchell Starc were

left out of the 16-man squad for the series next month.

They will return to Australia following three Tests against the West Indies beginning on June 25.

Young batsman Jake Fraser-McGurk was dropped, but there was a maiden call-up for the 23-year-old Owen after a Big Bash League season where he was the highest run scorer and made a memorable 108 off 42 balls in the final.

Australia have won 12 of their past 14 matches as they build towards next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

Chairman of selectors George Bailey said: “We have a busy T20 schedule coming up

through this series, followed by three against South Africa and New Zealand and five matches against India at home as we continue to refine and build a squad we think will be the right fit for the World Cup on the subcontinent.”

All-rounder Marsh was in fine form during the Indian Premier League season, scoring 627 runs for Lucknow Super Giants, including a maiden century.

Cameron Green and Cooper Connolly also return following injury.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell, who on Monday announced his retirement from 50-over international cricket, retained his place in the T20 squad.

The first T20 against the West Indies is on July 20 at Kingston, Jamaica.

Australia T20 squad: Mitchell Marsh (capt), Sean Abbott, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Matt Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Mitch Owen, Matthew Short, Adam Zampa.

## England pacer Atkinson doubtful for first Test against India

LONDON, Jun 4 (Agencies): England fast bowler Gus Atkinson is a doubtful starter for the first Test against India, scheduled to begin on 20 June at Headingley in Leeds, due to a hamstring injury, according to a report.

India and England are set to contest a five-match Test series over the coming months, in what promises to be a fiercely competitive encounter between two strong sides.

“Bowler Gus Atkinson

is a doubt for the first Test against India later this month because of a right hamstring strain – adding to England's injury concerns among their seamers,” reported the agency.

The 27-year-old sustained the injury during the one-off Test against Zimbabwe last month, which also ruled him out of the recently concluded ODI series against the West Indies — a series England won 3-0.

Atkinson has been a standout performer in the England set-up,

having claimed three five-wicket hauls in just 12 Test matches. His absence would be a significant blow for England, especially considering their current fitness concerns in the pace department.

England are already grappling with injuries to key fast bowlers Mark Wood and Olly Stone. To compound matters, Jofra Archer's long-awaited return to Test cricket has been delayed yet again, this time due to a thumb injury.



Should Atkinson fail to recover in time, it will present a major selec-

tion challenge for England ahead of a crucial series.

## Gary Stead set to step down as New Zealand coach in June

WELLINGTON, Jun 4 (Agencies): New Zealand men's head coach Gary Stead will step down from his position when his contract expires at the end of June, according to the official website of the ICC.

Stead, who had already departed as white-ball coach, was ruled out of a Test-only role after New Zealand Cricket's decision to employ one head coach across all three formats.

The coach enjoyed a prolific seven years in the role, with the team

claiming an ICC World Test Championship victory in 2021, topping the Test Rankings, and claiming a momentous 3-0 Test series sweep of India away from home last year.

The side also sat in top spot in the ODI rankings in his tenure, reaching the final of the Men's Champions Trophy 2025, Men's Cricket World Cup 2019, and the T20 World Cup 2021, among other semi-final appearances at global tournaments.

An emotional Stead reflected on his time with

great fondness.

“There's been some amazing memories over the past seven years based around a group of fantastic and talented people who have gone out to give their best for their country, each other and for the fans,” he said, as quoted from the official website of the ICC.

“Brendon McCullum and Mike Hesson had left the team with strong values and a style of play, and I've just tried to build and shape that further to grow our ability to be consistent in

everything we do,” he added.

“It's been nice to be competitive across all three formats and I'd like to think that regardless of results, the opposition know the BLACKCAPS are a team that won't fold and will always show the grit and determination to compete,” he noted.

“To work alongside some of New Zealand's best cricketers and have had a ringside seat to every training and match has been very special and an absolute honour,” he said.



“For a country with five million people and limited resources, we comparatively perform outstandingly well against the other powerhouses of the game,”

he remarked.

“I'd like to wish the new coach well and the team every success in the future,” he said.

As New Zealand look to his replacement,

53-year-old Stead has outlined his intention to carry on in his coaching career.

“I'll initially take some time to refresh and recharge, but I still have the coaching bug and will look to explore opportunities at home and abroad where I can look to share what I've learned from my 30 years of professional sport as a player and coach,” he said.

Kane Williamson led the tributes for Stead's contribution to New Zealand cricket.

“Steady gave abso-

lutely everything to the team,” Williamson said.

“There was no one more hardworking and passionate about seeing the Black Caps grow and succeed,” he added.

“He was always thorough in his planning and preparation and will go down as one of our best coaches, but an even better bloke,” he noted.

Stead's final few weeks in charge will see him join the Black Caps' winter camps as players ready for their tour of Zimbabwe in July and August.



## PDL/TDL Workers of PDD announce indefinite protest from June 11 against contractual hiring

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: In a significant escalation, PDL/TDL and other workers of the Power Development Department (PDD) announced they will go on an indefinite peaceful protest starting June 11, 2025, in response to the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (JPDCCL) issuing tenders to hire manpower on a contract basis.

At a press conference held in Jammu, Akhil Sharma, President of the PDL/TDL and Other Workers Union, condemned the move as an "attempt to sabotage the regularisation process" for nearly 10,000 workers who have served the department for over



25 years. He criticized the JPDCCL management for overlooking the longstanding contributions of these workers, many of whom have yet to receive pending wages for several years, despite regularisation

rules being framed three years ago. Sharma alleged that the current move is a push towards privatization that undermines the sacrifices of PDL/TDL workers, many of whom maintained power supply

even in war-affected border areas and during emergencies. "No private contractor will be allowed to work on HT/LT feeders or sub-transmission lines unless our regularisation demands are met," he asserted.

The union has issued a seven-day notice, after which all PDL/TDL and other affiliated workers will cease work. The union warned that responsibility for any power outages during the peak summer season will lie with the JPDCCL management.

A strong appeal was made to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Principal Secretary of PDD, and the MD of JPDCCL to withdraw all tenders for contractual hiring, and to prioritize the regularisation and wage clearance of existing PDD workers.

The announcement signals a critical standoff that may severely affect power supply across the region if not addressed urgently.

## Mission Director chairs meeting on Phase-4 of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under JKCIP

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: A comprehensive meeting to finalize preparations for Phase-4 of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (KSA) under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) was held on Wednesday at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Sandeep Kumar, Mission Director HADP/JKCIP.

The JKCIP aims to contribute to a sustained increase in rural household incomes by enhancing the competitiveness and climate resilience of agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting witnessed the presence of Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, Dr. Syed Moin-ul-Haq, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, along with senior officers from the agriculture and allied departments, technical experts from the Jammu division, and represen-



tatives from SKUAST-Jammu. Additionally, Heads of Departments (HODs) of Agriculture and allied sectors from across Jammu and Kashmir, along with all District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of HADP/JKCIP, representatives of SKUAST-Kashmir participated in the proceedings through video conferencing from their respective district headquarters.

During the session, it was informed that Phase-4 of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan—a flagship farmer awareness and outreach program—will commence from 30th June 2025 and will be conducted across 90 blocks, covering 1,536 Panchayats

(744 from Jammu division and 792 from Kashmir division).

During the meeting, Sandeep Kumar emphasized a targeted approach for engaging youth, women farmers, and agripreneurs, and issued a series of directives to ensure the effective implementation of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Phase-4. All District Nodal Officers (DNOs) were instructed to prepare and share a detailed event calendar outlining the schedule of awareness programmes in their respective districts, and share a detailed event calendar with District Administration, Local MLAs, DDCs, and other public representatives

well in advance. This advance planning will ensure timely logistical support, community mobilization, and strong administrative backing at the grassroots level.

Furthermore, each district must nominate Resource Persons and Master Trainers, ensuring their full participation in scheduled training programmes to effectively communicate key messages and technical guidance to farmers.

A major emphasis was placed on achieving maximum farmer participation, with directions for all field officers to create a friendly and accessible environment, engage farmers in local languages, and provide hands-on demonstra-

tions wherever possible to enhance understanding.

The Mission Director also directed to coordinate with bank representatives to ensure their presence during outreach events, thereby facilitating farmer awareness on credit, subsidies, and financial inclusion schemes. A dedicated women-centric approach must be adopted, with targeted messaging and inclusion strategies to significantly boost women farmer participation, recognizing their pivotal role in the agri-economy.

In addition, DNOs were tasked with identifying and engaging progressive farmers and successful HADP beneficiaries, who have demonstrated innovation or tangible impact on the ground. These individuals will serve as local role models and peer motivators, and a comprehensive list of such farmers must be compiled and submitted to the Mission Directorate for further coordination and showcasing during the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan.

## Randhawa inaugurates Lane and Drain in Sector-1 Ward No. 42



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: In a significant step towards enhancing civic infrastructure and addressing long-standing drainage and road issues, MLA of Bahu Constituency, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, inaugurated the newly constructed lane and drain in Sector-1, Ward No. 42, Nanak Nagar.

The inauguration ceremony was conducted in the presence of key officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), including Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Nisha Devi and Junior Engineer (JE) Vishal Kotwal, who were instrumental in planning and overseeing the completion of the project.

A large number of local residents and community leaders attended the event. Prominent among them were Smt. Neha Mahajan, Vidya Devi, Ankush

Gupta, Balvinder Singh, Sanjay Jandyal, Bobby Bhardwaj, Bhushan Verma, Alok Gupta, Yash Pal Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta, Neelam Gupta, and many others who lauded the efforts of the administration and the MLA.

In his address, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa highlighted the importance of grassroots development and assured the residents that similar works will be undertaken in other parts of the constituency in a phased manner. He reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of the area, emphasizing better roads, sanitation, and civic facilities. "Public welfare and infrastructure development are my top priorities. With the active support of JMC officials and the cooperation of residents, we are committed to bringing visible change to every corner of our constituency," said MLA Randhawa.

## BMS to hold protest at DC Office Samba over long-pending gratuity recovery cases

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: In a strongly worded press release, the Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) announced its decision to hold a protest demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Samba in the coming days, highlighting the years-long delay in recovery of gratuity amounts awarded under the Payment of Gratuity Act.

In a meeting held at the BMS office in Parade, Jammu, aggrieved workers who had won their gratuity cases years ago expressed their frustration over the non-execution of recovery orders forwarded to the Tehsildars of Bari Brahmana, Samba, and Vijaypur under the Land Revenue Act.

Despite favorable orders and repeated follow-ups, the cases have reportedly been lying pending for several years, with no concrete action taken by the concerned revenue officials.

BMS revealed that over 10 representations have been submitted to the Deputy Commissioner Samba since 2015, and even escalations to the Divisional Commissioner, Chief Secretary, and Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha have failed to yield any results. The union alleged that the tehsildars are hand-in-glove with powerful industrialists and are deliberately stalling the recovery process due to vested interests.

Particularly concerning, the BMS noted, is the plight of some of the petitioners who have now crossed 70 years of age and are in urgent need of the money owed to them. "It is disheartening that even after winning legal battles, these elderly workers are being denied justice due to administrative apathy," the statement said.

The BMS also condemned the attitude of certain officials, stating that the Tehsildar of Bari Brahmana has openly claimed it is her "prerogative" to decide whether or not to take action, which the union described as a blatant disregard of legal obligations.

## Shiv Sena demands e-bus facility at main religious tourist places of Jammu, memorandum to CEO

*Free bus facility should also be provided to students and elderly: Sahni*

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded e-bus facility in the main religious places of Jammu, Tirupati temple, Har Ki Pauri, Baba Jito Devasthan, Bawe and areas across Tawi and free bus facility to students and elderly like women.

A delegation of state leaders headed by party state chief Manish Sahni today met the Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Chief Executive Officer of Jammu Smart City Dr. Devansh Yadav and submitted a memorandum regarding the above demands.

Sahni said that e-bus facility should be started in areas like Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Chhanni Himmat, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash etc. across Tawi, including main religious places of Jammu like Bawe, Wala Maa Kali Temple,



Tirupati Balaji Temple, Har Ki Pauri, Baba Jio Devasthan.

He said that a demand has been made to extend the bus route of Shahidi Stambh near Baghe-e-Bahu Police Station upto Tirupati Temple via Bawe Wala Temple. Along with this, a demand was raised to provide free bus service to students and elders like women.

Sahni made aware of the increasing com-

plaints of not stopping buses for women and reduction in the number of buses during off school and peak hours, and also demanded to issue strict instructions for relief.

Sahni said that Dr. Devansh Yadav has agreed to the above demands and is assured to provide relief soon. On this occasion Sr Vice president Sanjeev Kumar, Balwant Singh were present.

## Food Safety Department Kulgam intensifies market checking ahead of Eid-ul-Adha

### Top News Report

KILGAM, Jun 4: On the eve of Eid and in compliance with the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, the Food Safety Team Kulgam intensified market checking operations across Kulgam town and Tehsil Pahloo.

The drive aimed to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic, and quality food products for consumers during the festive season. During the inspection, several establishments were checked for compliance with food safety standards, and legal samples of various food items were lifted for analytical purposes.

The team focused on hygiene practices, proper labeling, expiry



dates, and the overall quality of consumables being sold. Shopkeepers and food business operators were sensitized regarding the importance of following food safety norms, espe-

cially during festivals. The department reiterates its commitment to public health and warns of strict action against any violations under the Food Safety & Standards Act.

## Bodh Raj Bhagat re-joins Apni Party in presence of Altaf Bukhari

*PDP's Zonal President Rahmat Ali from Nagrota also joins Party in Jammu*

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 4: Expressing faith in the leadership and policy of the Apni Party, a senior politician, Bodh Raj Bhagat, today re-joined the Party here at Jammu.

Bhagat recently left the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and joined the Apni Party.

On this occasion, another prominent tribal leader, and Zonal President of PDP, Rahmat Ali from Nagrota Assembly Constituency also joined the party.

The joining program was organised at the Party office that was chaired by the Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari. Bukhari welcomed both the leaders into the Party folds.

In his address, he appreciated the decisions of Bodh Raj Bhagat, and Bashir Mohammed to join the Party while expressing commitment for



the upliftment of the neglected sections of the society.

"The Party has provided equal opportunity to every section of society. The people from the Schedule Tribe and Scheduled Caste have put their faith in the policy of the Party that wants regional balance, and equal development for all the people in Jammu and Kashmir," said Altaf Bukhari.

He hoped that their joining would strengthen the Party's gross root politics and educate them about the policy and programs of the Party.

Meanwhile, Provincial President of Jammu,

Manjit Singh also addressed the meeting and appreciated Bodh Raj Bhagat for his re-joining the Party and commended Bashir Ahmed for his work for the tribal community.

He said that both the leaders are known for their work among their community members. The program was attended by Provincial Secretary / Incharge Trade Wing, Ajaz Kazmi; Coordinator / Incharge Pir Panjal, Arun Sharma; District President Rajouri, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah Bukhari; Provincial Jammu Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, and others.